

The Nesting Season

June 1 — July 31, 1980

Abbreviations frequently used in Regional Reports

ad.: adult, Am.: American, c.: central, C: Celsius, CBC: Christmas Bird Count, Cr.: Creek, Com: Common, Co.: County, Cos.: Counties, *et al.*: and others, E.: Eastern (bird name), Eur.: European, Eurasian, F: Fahrenheit, *fide*: reported by, F.&W.S.: Fish & Wildlife Service, Ft.: Fort, imm.: immature, I.: Island, Is.: Islands, Isles, Jct.: Junction, juv.: juvenile, L.: Lake, m.ob.: many observers, Mt.: Mountain, Mts.: Mountains, N.F.: National Forest, N.M.: National Monument, N.P.: National Park, N.W.R.: Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, N.: Northern (bird name), Par.: Parish, Pen.: Peninsula, P.P.: Provincial Park, Pt.: Point, not Port, Ref.:

Refuge, Res.: Reservoir, not Reservation, R.: River, S.P.: State Park, sp.: species, spp.: species plural, ssp.: subspecies, Twp.: Township, W.: Western (bird name), W.M.A.: Wildlife Management Area, v.o.: various observers, N,S,W,E,: direction of motion, n., s., w., e.,: direction of location, >: more than, <: fewer than, ±: approximately, or estimated number, ♂: male, ♀: female, ∅: imm. or female, *: specimen, ph.: photographed, †: documented, ft: feet, mi: miles, m: meters, km: kilometers, date with a + (e.g., Mar. 4+): recorded beyond that date. Editors may also abbreviate often-cited locations or organizations.

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Peter D. Vickery

This summer saw the continued extension of several northward-expanding species. American Oystercatchers, Acadian Flycatchers, Blue-winged and Cerulean warblers all consolidated their numbers to the south and pushed to new northern limits. Pelagics included early Cory's Shearwaters, again this summer, wandering considerably north of their usual limits. Two Black-browed Albatrosses were reported. In Massachusetts, Mississippi and Swallow-tailed kites appeared again. An astonishing gathering of shorebirds was seen together on Monomoy June 24. The simultaneous presence of a Little Stint (*C. minuta*), Rufous-necked Stint (*C. ruficollis*), White-rumped Sandpiper and Western Sandpiper on that date in eastern Massachusetts defies explanation. A second Little Stint in New Brunswick and a second Rufous-necked Stint in Massachusetts concluded a better than average shorebird season.

The first unassisted North American occurrence of the Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*), discovered near St. Anthony, Newfoundland, was perhaps not totally startling considering the assorted European vagrants found in that area this spring.

The discovery of wild Peregrine Falcons nesting and successfully fledging two young in eastern Maine was heartening news indeed.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS—A pair of Com. Loons, with young observed on the nest, found near Peace Dale, R.I., apparently constituted a first modern state nesting record (RAC *et al.*). Common Loons remain rare nesters in Connecticut and w. Massachusetts. A single **Black-browed Albatross** was noted in early June on Cox's Ledge, R.I. (*fide* CW) and another carefully detailed **Black-browed Albatross** was noted from the N. Sydney, N.S.—Argentina, Nfld., ferry July 15 (DW *et al.*). This second bird

was seen some 4 hours out of N. Sydney and so presumably constitutes a first Newfoundland record. Northern Fulmars were again found in the Gulf of Maine, though not in the impressive numbers observed the previous two summers: 15 were noted from the ferry *Bluenose* June 28 (*fide* MKL). A single very early Cory's Shearwater in Placentia Bay, Nfld., June 21 (RTB) and three from the *Bluenose* ferry June 28 (*fide* MKL) suggest the possibility of another sizeable late summer movement into the Gulf of Maine and farther n., into Newfoundland waters. No less than 108 Manx Shearwaters were observed from the N. Sydney—Argentina ferry July 14 (DW *et al.*). Of particular interest was an intensely vocal Manx Shearwater making nocturnal visits to E. Egg Rock, Me., on the nights of June 11-14, July 22, 24, 31 (S.Kress). Surely the species must be breeding somewhere s. of Newfoundland. Two Audubon's Shearwaters were seen 55 mi s. of Nantucket July 27 (RSH). A count of 870+ Snowy Egrets flying to roost at Plum I., Mass., July 30 quite certainly constituted a Regional high count (*fide* RSH).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS—A late ♂ Harlequin Duck was notable in Manchester, Mass., June 23 (*fide* RSH) as was an ad. ♂ King Eider in Lubec, Me., July 1 (PL). A ♀ Com. Eider with six chicks and a second nest with eggs at Lunging I., Rye, N.H., provided a first confirmed nesting record for New Hampshire (*fide* VHH).

In Massachusetts, single Black Vultures were seen in Prov-

incetown June 8 and in Norwell July 12 (v.o., *fide* RSH). In the same state single **Swallow-tailed Kites** were seen in Marion June 11 and in Sandwich June 12 (*fide* RSH). A **Mississippi Kite** was identified in Chatham, Mass., June 25 (RSH, PT). A Golden Eagle in Litchfield, Conn., June 8 was apparently unique this summer (PCa).

S.A.

The most heartening news of the summer surrounded the discovery of a pair of Peregrine Falcons nesting in e. Maine. Interestingly, neither of the adults were thought to be Cornell Univ. releases: the male was clearly unbanded. Two nestlings fledged Aug. 20, for the first successful nesting in the area since 1955 (WCT).

At least two ♂ Yellow Rails were found in the Atlantic Provinces, one in New





Black Rail, captured by Noble S. Proctor, Cromwell, Conn., June 25, 1980. Photo/N.S. Proctor.

Brunswick and another calling in Nova Scotia (*vide* SIT). Of particular interest was a territorial ♂ **Black Rail** calling in Cromwell, Conn., June 25 into July (*vide* NSP). This was the first known potential breeder in recent times, though the species once bred in Connecticut and presently breeds further s. in New Jersey and possibly still on Long I., N.Y. (NSP).

SHOREBIRDS—American Oystercatchers continued to move into Maine in impressive numbers. In addition to the four birds listed this spring, there were five more at Biddeford Pool June 27 (DJA *et al.*) and a single bird at Georgetown July 28 (*vide* MKL). Two Am. Avocets were noted on Plum I., July 26-30 (*vide* RSH).



Little Stint, Monomoy, Mass., June 23, 1980. Photo/R.A. Forster

S.A.

Unquestionably the most astonishing gathering of shorebirds ever recorded in the Region occurred on Monomoy I., Mass. this June. First, a **Little Stint** (*C. minuta*) was discovered June 19-25 (BN *et al.*, ph). Five days later observers located a **Rufous-necked Stint** (*C. ruficollis*) June 24-28, which sometimes approached within feet of the Little Stint (VL *et al.*, *vide* BN). Additionally, single Western and White-rumped sandpipers June 24-25, rare at that date, accompanied the two stints, with larger numbers of Least and Semipalmated sandpipers (BN *et al.*). The Little Stint furnished a first Regional occurrence while the Rufous-necked Stint provided a third Regional and first Massachusetts record. Within days the Region's second Little Stint was discovered at Castalia, Grand Manan, N.B., June 30-July 4 (DWF *et al.*, ph). Finally, a second Rufous-necked Stint was found in Scituate, Mass., July 17-22 (WRP *et al.*, ph).

The season's two Curlew Sandpipers included a spring migrant at Nauset, Mass., June 3 (BN *et al.*) and a fall bird at Scituate, July 22 (*vide* RAF). A Marbled Godwit was presumably a very late and rare spring migrant on Monomoy June 12 although the provenance of a Willet of the w. race (*C.s. inornatus*) on the same date at the same locality was less clear (BN *et al.*). The second Massachusetts nesting of Wilson's Phalarope was recorded when a female was flushed from a nest containing 3 eggs on Monomoy June 7 (WRP *et al.*). At least five Wilson's Phalaropes summered on Plum I., but nesting was not confirmed this season.

SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS—A skua, sp., was observed off Nantucket Shoals July 27 (RSH). At least two Lesser Black-backed Gulls and no less than 11 Little Gulls occurred in e. Massachusetts this summer (v.o., *vide* RSH). Some 630 ± imm. Black-legged Kittiwakes were curiously out of season at Provincetown, Mass., June 23 (RSH). "Portlandica" Arctic Terns numbered 600 on Monomoy June 28 and 200 at Nauset, Mass., in early July (BN *et al.*). Possibly as many as 11 Royal Terns occurred in e. Massachusetts while four were found in Rhode Island (*vide* CW). In Maine, single Royal Terns were seen on a boat trip to Matinicus Rock June 28 (*vide* MKL) and at Biddeford Pool July 5 (DJA, PL). A Sandwich Tern was rare on Monomoy June 6 (WRP *et al.*).



White-winged Dove, Wellfleet, Mass., July 5, 1980. Photo/Roger S. Everett.

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS—A **White-winged Dove** was photographed at Wellfleet, Mass., July 2-4 (*vide* RSH). The **third** Massachusetts **Burrowing Owl** this year was located at Katama, Martha's Vineyard July 12-Aug. 31+ (VL *et al.*). Earlier individuals this spring were found at Plymouth Beach and on Monomoy. A very early W. Kingbird was noted in S. Kingston, R.I., July 11 (DR *et al.*). Acadian Flycatchers, doing well in Connecticut and in w. Massachusetts, where three territorial males were located, were found as far n. as Littleton, N.H., May 28-June 24 (CAM). Two were banded on Appledore I., Me., one each June 3 & June 6 (RS *vide* VHH). For the second successive year Willow Flycatchers were singing on territory in E. Machias, Me. (NF). There are also second-hand reports of the species on territory somewhere in Nova Scotia (*vide* SIT). An **Eastern Wood Pewee** was rare indeed at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., June 25 (BMacT).

WRENS, THRUSHES—In Massachusetts, single Short-billed Marsh Wrens were

found on territory in Framingham, Westboro and Windsor although no breeding was confirmed (*vide* BH, RAF). A **Wheatear** in Newbury, Mass., June 6 was either the same individual reported this spring or (more likely) another individual (*vide* RS).

S.A.

The discovery of a **Redwing** (*Turdus iliacus*) singing on territory just south of St. Anthony, Nfld., June 25-July 11 (BMacT *et al.*) provided the second (first unambiguous) record of this species in North America. The authenticity of a previous record at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, N.Y., Feb. 20-24, 1959, remains in doubt because of its proximity to JFK Int'l Airport, where exotic escapees are occasionally found. The arrival of the St. Anthony individual was quite probably coincidental to the other European vagrants recorded in late May. Unfortunately, the Redwing was neither photographed nor its voice recorded.

VIREOS, WARBLERS—No less than four pairs of Yellow-throated Vireos on territory just s. of Augusta, may reflect a small range expansion, or more likely greater birder sensitivity to the species' habitat requirements (PA, SW). This summer Blue-winged Warblers and Louisiana Waterthrushes were confirmed nesting in Maine for the first time. **Blue-winged Warbler**, a species expanding impressively in e. Massachusetts, was found on territory and subsequently feeding young in S. Berwick (PA, PDV *et al.*, SW). As expected, Louisiana Waterthrushes were found feeding downy fledglings in Sweden, Me., June 14 (PDV). More surprising were nesting Louisiana Waterthrushes at Wells Beach, Me. Four recently fledged young were discovered there July 2 (JF). Also of interest in Maine was the discovery of 10+ pairs of Palm Warblers in suitable bog habitat in Old Orchard June 5—well s. of any previously known breeding area (PA). In Connecticut, Cerulean Warblers apparently numbered 20+ pairs (*vide* NSP) and Kentucky Warblers continued to attract attention as several territorial males were found again this summer (*vide* TB). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was banded on Kent I., N.B., July 30 (PFC).



Yellow-throated Warbler, Kent I., N.B., July 30, 1980. Photo/Peter F. Cannell.

ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS—From all accounts Orchard Oriole numbers n. to and including e. Massachusetts seemed well up this summer. A ♂ **Painted Bunting** in Middletown, R.I., May 24 (*vide* CW) should be added to the three individuals reported this spring. The first Berkshire County, Massa-

chusetts, breeding record for Evening Grosbeak was established this summer in Pittsfield (*vide* BH). Breeding Grasshopper Sparrows have never been particularly numerous in the Region; 40+ birds on Naushon I., Mass., June 23-25 (BS, *vide* RS) no doubt constitutes the state's and Region's largest breeding colony.

ADDENDA—An Arctic Loon was observed off Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard, Mass., Mar. 23, 1980 (BK). A remarkably early Least Bittern was found in Scituate, Mass., Mar. 18 (*vide* RAF). The skeletal re-

mains of a Sooty Tern, no doubt a remnant from the 1979 Hurricane *David* wreck, was discovered on Matinicus Rock, Me., June 15, 1980 (TF).

CORRIGENDUM—Delete the record of an Acadian Flycatcher at Blandford, Mass., May 28, 1979.

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QUÉBEC REGION

/ Michel Gosselin and Normand David

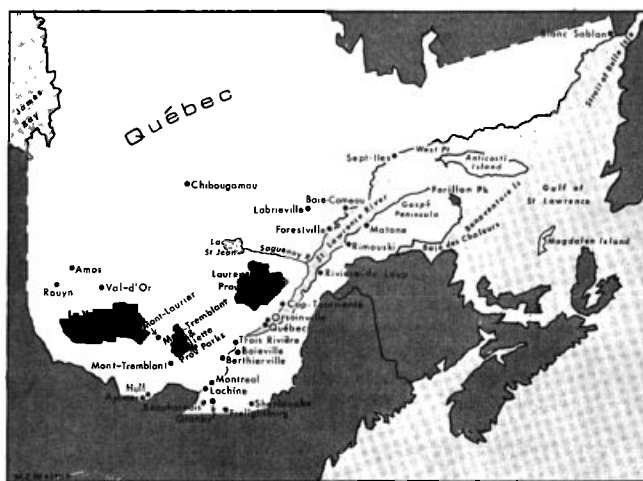
In Quebec, summer weather was the opposite of that in the rest of North America; daytime temperatures were cooler than the mean, and precipitation was heavy in many localities (*e.g.*, important inundations in the eastern Gaspé).

FULMARS THROUGH GEESE—The waters off the e. North Shore proved once again to be the most rewarding in this Region for pelagics; on July 10 near Blanc-Sablon, 40 N. Fulmars, 50 Sooty Shearwaters and 200 Greater Shearwaters were recorded; 580 N. Fulmars, seven Sooties, 1080 Greaters and three Manx Shearwaters were seen off St-Augustin July 12 (CS, PLn). For the second consecutive summer a Green Heron frequented the cattail marshes n. of Old Harry, Magdalen I. (PD). Single Great Egrets in Hudson June 22 (*vide* PS) and I. Dupas July 23 (PC) were not totally unexpected, but a bird at Port-Daniel June 30 (JD *et al.*) was a first in the Gaspé Peninsula. The Little Egret of Cacouna (see our Spring Report) was seen intermittently during the entire season (MGa, BG, m.ob.), and two Snowy Egrets were present at Rimouski c. July 19 (PBr). A pair of Canada Geese with downy young was reported from the Dundee marsh, at the s.w. tip of Quebec, May 31 (*vide* PBa). Summering geese included a Brant on Bonaventure I. (*vide* RB) and a Snow Goose at Pointe-des-Monts July 11 (GT) where it is rare even in migration.

DUCKS THROUGH COOTS—The breeding range of the N. Shoveler was extended e. of the Saguenay R., with the discovery of flightless young at St-Paul-du-Nord July 20 (AB, LF, GS). A ♀ Harlequin Duck carefully studied at I. des Soeurs June 5 (YA) represented a first summer occurrence in the Montreal area. A pair of Ruddy Ducks on a small pond near Baieville June 3 (YM) was near where the only Regional breeding record had been obtained. The most outstanding nesting reports involved two of our less common raptors: Golden Eagle in the Gaspé Peninsula (ML, YP), and Peregrine Falcon in s. Quebec (*vide* PBo, YA); in the latter case, two young fledged, the first such record involving a non-

released bird in over a decade in the Northeast (see *A.B.* 34:142 and our Spring Report). Two Bobwhites near L. Beauport May 15 (YH) were undoubtedly of captive origin, but can the presence of a singing bird at Laprairie June 3-4 (JH, BB, MM) be linked to the favorable weather conditions of last winter? For the first time ever, Yellow Rails were discovered at Bergeronnes July 10-22 (AB, GS); they also occurred at St-Fulgence in good numbers at the end of the season (NB); one singing bird was heard on I. du Moine July 1 (PC). An Am. Coot at Port-Menier, Anticosti I., June 30 (MBE) was the first local occurrence in over 60 years.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS—An Am. Oystercatcher seen at Cacouna May 19 (AP) was described as having among other features "... yellow eyes, a black head and a gray back . . .", thus pointing more specifically to the American (as opposed to the European) species. The range extension of the Killdeer was consolidated with the discovery of a nest along the Opinaca R., June 27 (JL) and that of a flightless young at Blanc-Sablon July 8 (PLn, CS); birds were also seen at Port-Menier, Anticosti I., June 26 (MBE) and Harrington-Harbour June 21 (KB-F). Some outstanding shorebirds of the season included an Am. Woodcock near Port-Menier June 26 (MBE), a Willet at Barachois July 11 (RB), up to seven Stilt Sandpipers at Laprairie July 27-Aug. 3 (BB, m.ob.), and a pair of Wilson's Phalaropes at Barachois June 1 (RB). Ring-billed Gulls in the Montreal area now total nearly 30,000 breeding pairs, an increase of 34% since 1978 (PM); another sign of this population explosion was the discovery of a colony of 60 pairs on an island on the Yamaska R., e. of Granby (RL, PM). The newly discovered colony of Black-legged Kittiwake, another expanding Larid, on Sainte-Marie I. numbered 127 nests (KB-F). Three Forster's Terns, two of them copulating, appeared at Lasalle June 11 (BB).



A Thick-billed Murre July 23-25 and a Dovekie June 30 were rare summer visitors to Bonaventure I. (*vide* RB).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS—Extralimital Mourning Doves included birds in Chibougamau P.P., June 11 (YH), Harrington-Harbour July 4 (KB-F), and Schefferville in early summer (RT). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were in evidence this summer, with single birds in various parts of Montreal May 24 (DJ), June 28, July 1 (MA), July 16-21 (AT); in Aylmer June 25 (MBo); and a courting pair in Longueuil July 6+ (MTr); a Black-billed Cuckoo reached Sainte-Marie I. July 9 (KB-F). A nest of Red-headed Woodpeckers was discovered on the Berthier Is., and at least two young were raised (PC); this is a 50 km range extension for a Blue-listed species. Willow Flycatchers were observed in new localities: singing birds were in Hull June 11 (DSH), Laprairie June 12 (ND), Otter-Lake June 23 (BMD), two at I. Dupas July 3 (PC), two at Lennoxville July 29 (PBo), and four near Mt. St-Bruno Aug. 2 (MTo). Three E. Wood Pewees were seen and heard at Pointe-aux-Outardes June 13 (FL), and thus are certainly breeding in the area. The species was also reported in Power Township, Gaspé Co., June 7 (PP).

WRENS THROUGH WEAVERS—A Carolina Wren turned up briefly in a Montreal backyard July 17 (PBa). Four Gray Catbirds were recorded at Bergeronnes July 5

(AB, GS), and a lone bird was seen and heard at Pointe-aux-Outardes June 12 (*vide* FL); all Mimids are thus pushing the limits of their range N. According to RB, Hermit Thrushes went almost unnoticed in the Gaspé Peninsula this summer. A pair of E. Bluebirds was attending a nest at Jonquiére June 14, and later successfully raised four young, the first such record for L. St-Jean (YB, NB). At least three pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were present this summer on Mt. St-Bruno (MTO), where they nested in 1978. Details on a **Worm-eating Warbler** reported from Mt-Royal July 5 (RP) will appear in *Bull. ornithologique*. At Covey Hill, a ♂ Golden-winged Warbler appeared June 7 (BB), while two adults were seen feeding three fledged young at L. Philippe, Gatineau P.P., July 5 (RF, SG). A ♂ Cerulean Warbler was singing from Mt. St-Bruno this summer (MTO), a new locality for the species. House Sparrows were thriving at Schefferville, within the Arctic Ecotone (RT), where first reported by Hel-leiner in 1970 (*Can. Field-Nat.* 86:84).

ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS—The twelve Bobolinks present in the vicinity of Port-Menier June 29 (MBe) attested to their coloniza-

tion of Anticosti I. The ♂ W. Meadowlark reported in spring, remained near Chicoutimi for most of the season (YB); two singing birds were also heard near Rivière-du-Loup June 29 (GG, LH). Another Icterid pushing its range NE was the Com. Grackle, present at Havre St-Pierre and Natashquan July 3 (PLn, CS). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was found at Bergeronnes July 10-22, and at least three singing birds were present at St-Paul-du-Nord July 12 (AB, GS); a singing male was found at I. du Moine July 2, and there were possibly two birds on this Upper St. Lawrence island until the end of the season (PC), a most enigmatic phenomenon. Clay-colored Sparrows were again noted at St-Colomban (MM), and a singing bird was discovered at L. Cayamant June 23-30 (PBI). The presence of Lincoln's Sparrows in the St. Lawrence lowlands was illustrated by a bird in Farnham June 20 (ND), and an adult carrying food at Longueuil July 12 (BB, MM).

EXOTICS—Single Chukars were reported from Laval Apr. 4 (*vide* PLt) and Mt-Royal May 8 (BB); the bird previously reported from St-Lambert apparently wintered there. Our first Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta mona-*

chus) was photographed in Montreal May 12 (DA); for more details on this species, see *A.B.* 31:273-8; 34:254.

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION / William J. Boyle, Jr., Robert O. Paxton and David A. Cutler

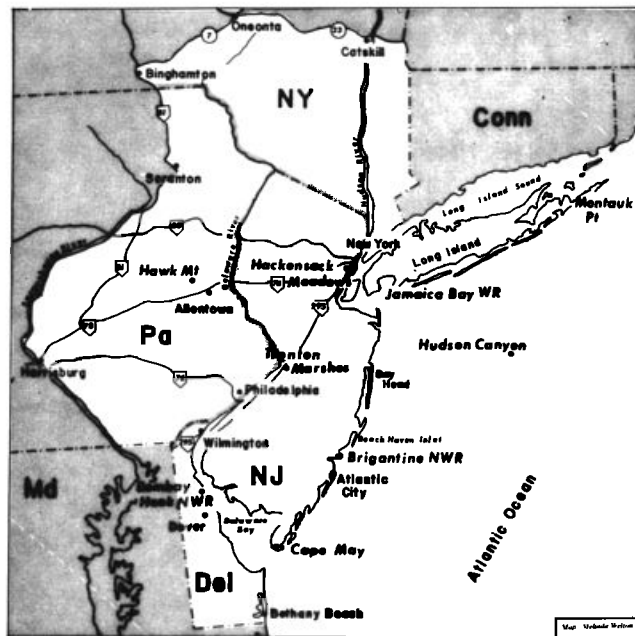
The nesting season was generally unremarkable, with very few vagrant rarities or unusual breeding records. A few species of southern affinity continued to push their way slowly north, some exploring new territory and others reclaiming areas surrendered in the past. Another, somewhat smaller, contingent of northern species has been expanding to the south of historical breeding ranges. The updating of our knowledge of the breeding status and distribution of the Region's birds is greatly facilitated by the continuing interest in one-day counts modeled after the Christmas Bird Count (referred to below as Summer Bird Count or S.B.C.) and in the Breeding Bird Surveys conducted by a few groups and individuals. This year S.B.C.s were received from southern Lancaster County, Pa., and Cumberland County, N.J. (June 7), W. Chester, Pa. (June 8), Boonton, N.J., Captree, L.I. and central Suffolk Co., L.I. (June 14). Whatever the limitations of counts of this type, they provide data on bird populations that are not otherwise available. A continuing study of the nesting birds of the Highlands of north central New Jersey conducted by the Urner Ornithological Club is cited hereafter as N.J. Highlands B.B.S. (Breeding Bird Survey).

June and early July were very mild, with slightly below normal temperatures and nearly average rainfall. By the end of the second week in July, however, the heat wave which had been plaguing the southern and western parts of the country arrived and remained for

the duration of the period. Fortunately, the record hot weather came too late to affect the nesting of most species, and the lack of severe storms contributed to a generally successful breeding season, especially for colonial waterbirds.

GREBES THROUGH IBISES—A Red-necked Grebe at Marine Park, Brooklyn June 22-Aug. 2 (m.ob.) provided the first summer record for Long Island. Marine Park also had one Horned Grebe, while a pair at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (hereafter, J.B.W.R.) June 10-July 4 was watched closely, but to no avail, for signs of nesting (m.ob.). New Jersey's largest colony of Pied-billed Grebes remained stable at Kearny Marsh, with ten families numbering 50+ birds in July (RK). This species has disappeared from most of its old New Jersey haunts and is scarce elsewhere in the Region, although J.B.W.R. had its first nest in 10 years (*vide* THD).

The highlight of the June 7 pelagic trip from Montauk, N.Y., to Block Canyon was the four Leach's Storm-Petrels spotted among 300+ Wilson's (THD, BS *et al.*). Closer in, Brady found a Manx Shearwater



along with three Cory's and five Greater only 5 mi off Barnegat Inlet June 29 (AB), while Raynor had a Manx and a Cory's at Shinnecock Inlet July 8. An Audubon's Shearwater less than ½ mi off Indian River Inlet, Del., July 21, was an excellent find (JG); this warm-water species is infrequently seen in the Region, owing more, perhaps, to the small number of late summer-early fall pelagic trips than to its inherent scarcity.

For the first time in five years the New Jersey Coastal Colonial Waterbird Survey was not conducted, owing to a lack of funding.

Results from the past 4 years of this study have provided a comprehensive picture of the status of the state's colonial waterbirds, and it is hoped that the survey will be conducted at intervals in the future. Without it or any similar data from Long Island, information on these birds is rather spotty; nonetheless, 14 species of long-legged waders were reported from the Region this season, with all but one of them known or probable breeders.

Great Blue Herons were reported from all parts of the Region, but nesting is limited to a small scattering of colonies, most of which are well away from the coast. In addition to the coastal colonies of Cattle Egret, 27 were found on the S. Lancaster County S.B.C. and 50+ were in the Kearny, N.J. roost May 31 and again at the end of July (RK), in a location where nesting is a possibility. These numbers pale beside the 4700 present on Rookery I., Washington Boro, Pa., in the Susquehanna R., Aug. 6 (RS). Five-six Louisiana Herons in N. Arlington-Kearny during July were unusual at this inland location, while eight at Tinicum Nat'l Environmental Center (hereafter, T.N.E.C.) was the largest number ever recorded in s.e. Pennsylvania (JCM). Black-crowned Night Herons seem to be faring reasonably well. Although the Kearny heronry is the only non-coastal site in New Jersey (with 20 nests—Don Smith), there are a number of colonies in Pennsylvania, including one at Pittston, near Wilkes-Barre (WR). What is apparently the largest inland colony of Yellow-crowned Night Herons in the Northeast was discovered on McCormick's I., in the Susquehanna R., at Harrisburg; Cliff Jones visited the island, an historical breeding site for one or two pairs of Yellow-crowns, Aug. 11, and discovered 25 vacant nests and numerous ad., imm., and dead herons, all of which were Yellow-crowned. The site will be visited earlier in the nesting season next year to confirm the number and identity of herons present.

Least Bittern was recorded at most of its usual haunts, such as Bombay Hook N. W.R. (hereafter, B.H.N.W.R.), Trenton Marsh and Great Swamp N.W.R., but was considered down in numbers from 1979 at Kearny Marsh, its main stronghold in New Jersey (RK). The pair of ad. **White-faced Ibis** spent their second summer at J.B.W.R., but no confirmation of nesting was obtained (THD *et al.*). Three imm. White Ibis at Rumson, N. J., July 19-21 (Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Lefferts, Mabel McKim) were the forerunners of a minor irruption of this species into our Region. An injured imm. female at Ridley Creek S.P. July 28 (JCM) died and became Pennsylvania's first specimen, subsequent to numerous sight records. There were additional reports in early August, but substantially fewer than during the big 1977 invasion.

WATERFOWL—The numbers and variety of summering waterfowl (only 23 species mentioned) were well below the norm for recent years, but a few of the breeding birds seemed to be doing very well. Mute Swans continued to increase, especially near the coast, but were found on many inland lakes, and ponds as well. Canada Geese are reaching epidemic proportions and are considered pests by some municipalities, where they gather in flocks of hundreds on the grass in parks and on corporate campuses. Captree

S.B.C. recorded 486, a new high, and 500 were at Great Swamp N.W.R., N.J., in June. In N. Wales, Pa., a pair nested successfully on the roof of an industrial plant (AM, JM). Black Ducks were doing well inland with 76 on the S. Lancaster County S.B.C. and 500 at Great Swamp N.W.R. in June, and on Long Island where 72 on the Captree S.B.C. furnished a new high. A post-breeding count of 100 Green-winged Teal at Great Swamp N.W.R. was impressive for a species which has been a scarce nester in the Region.

A ♂ Eur. Wigeon at J.B.W.R. July 6-13 (THD *et al.*) was a good find, but more interesting were the three Am. Wigeon at Connetquot River S.P., on the Captree S.B.C. This species, which was found in potential nesting habitat, is very rare as a breeder in the Region, all known records being from Long Island. At least 14 pairs of Ruddy Ducks nested in the Kearny Marsh, the only significant breeding location for this species in New Jersey (RK). None was reported from Little Creek W.M.A. (hereafter, L.C.W.M.A.) which last year produced Delaware's first confirmed breeding record in 17 years. The only other regional nesting location is J.B.W.R. A ♀ Hooded Merganser with five young at the E. Orange Water Reserve, Essex Co., N.J., on the Boonton S.B.C., (RR) provided the fifth breeding record for the state, while a nest at Mashomack Woods on Shelter I. was the first ever for the Long Island area (C.K. & K. McKeever). Common Mergansers are prospering in the upper Delaware and Susquehanna Valleys. Fifty birds, including at least 15 young, were on the Delaware R., between Stroudsburg and Dingman's Ferry July 13 (*vide* RK), while 13 adults and 32 immatures were on the Susquehanna at Tunkhannock July 21 and six more at Wyoming July 28 (WR). Reid has documented a steady increase in this species in n.e. Pennsylvania over the last 5-6 years.

RAPTORS—No Black Vultures were reported from New Jersey this summer following the best spring yet for this species. In Pennsylvania, however, the 46 recorded on the S. Lancaster County S.B.C. were followed up by the photographic documentation of a nest, the first for that county (RS), although York County across the river has had several. Following the 6-7 sightings of **Mississippi Kite** in s. New Jersey in late May-early June (see spring report), there were no more until Aug. 1 when an adult appeared briefly over Wildwood Crest (Renée Kochenberger, *vide* PD). Speculation continues rampant concerning the possibility of nesting by this species in the relatively unpopulated areas of nearby Cumberland or Salem counties. Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen in two cedar swamps in s. New Jersey (TP, WW), although without evidence of nesting. Reid found it a good summer for Accipiters in n.e. Pennsylvania with six Sharp-shinned and three Cooper's Hawks, while a Goshawk was seen at Promised Land S.P. in the Pocono Mts., July 23 (JGi). The situation of Red-shouldered Hawks was modestly encouraging, especially in the New Jersey Highlands with 12 birds, including several breeding pairs, noted on the B.B.S. A pair raised two young at the Bronx Zoo (J. Roderick) and three on the S. Lancaster County S.B.C. furnished a high for the count.

Red-tailed Hawks continue to be common and widespread in spite of habitat encroachment, as do Broad-winged Hawks in most of the Region, except s. New Jersey where Sutton reports that this once common nesting bird is now almost non-existent as a breeder.

One of the two active Delaware Bald Eagle nests produced two young (J.M. Abbott) and a former nest site had a resident pair, but no nest (Paul Burnes). As reported in the spring, the one known New Jersey nest and one Delaware nest failed; there are no others in the Region. There were only 2 reports of wandering immatures. The status of the Marsh Hawk in New Jersey improved marginally this year as the 23 breeding pairs located in the s. part of the state experienced good breeding success (PD). At least three other pairs were noted further n., but the Hackensack Meadowlands population was down to one pair from four in 1975 (RK). There were nine breeding pairs on Long Island (*vide* B. Allen, N.Y.D.E.C.) The situation for the Osprey looks very encouraging. New Jersey's Non-game and Endangered Species Project found that 86 active nests (vs. 87 in 1979) produced an average of 1.13 young/nest, significantly above the 0.95 young/nest which is the minimum replacement level for a stable population and which was exactly matched last year (J. Frier, JGa) On Long Island, 87 nests, up from 70 in 1979, fledged 1.16 young/nest (*vide* B. Allen, N.Y.D.E.C.) and 25 birds were counted along the s.e. Delaware coast June 14 (PJ) The introduction of the Peregrine Falcon into the salt marshes of New Jersey by the Cornell University Peregrine Fund is proving successful. A pair near Manahawkin raised three young of their own while one at Brigantine N.W.R. (hereafter, B.N.W.R.) fledged one of their own and two transplants (*vide* JGa) These birds nested on the same towers from which they were fledged several years ago

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS—Three nests of Sora found at Oak Beach Marsh (J. Greenlaw) were the first on Long Island since 1935 Two Black Rails were at Turkey Pt., Cumberland Co., N.J., June 4, where they have nested for the past few years (DK), and one on the Captree S.B.C. was at the traditional Oak Beach Marsh site after an absence of several years. In Delaware, several pairs were at B.H.N.W.R. and Primehook N.W.R. through the summer (*vide* DAC). The outpost Purple Gallinule no longer seems to breed at Dragon's Run, Del., but a characteristically late vagrant was at Sea Cliff, L.I., June 13-16 (m.ob., ph BS) and another was found near Tinton Falls, N.J., with a missing foot (*vide* LS). Common Gallinule is the dominant railid in the marshes of the Hackensack Meadowlands, N.J., having replaced Am Coot in all brackish waters. Only in the Kearny Marsh, which is fresh, does the coot hang on, the 800± pairs that breed there being the only significant breeding population in the state and the largest in the Region. Even at Kearny the gallinule has increased tremendously in the last two years and now numbers in the hundreds (RK).

American Oystercatchers continue to increase within the Region, 23 on the Captree S.B.C. furnishing an all-time high count Sixty at Tuckerton, N.J., in late July included many immatures, indicating continued high

breeding success (JCM). As noted last year, Miller has found them nesting on grassy islands and believes the change from beach nesting may be responsible for the dramatic increase in this area. A survey of nesting Piping Plovers along the New Jersey coast this summer found 90 pairs (exclusive of Atlantic County, where data are incomplete), which produced an average of 1.5 young/pair (AG). Compared to the 93 pairs found on the first Colonial Waterbird Survey in 1976, these results indicate a stable population. In N. Wales, Pa., a Killdeer nested on the roof of a factory not far from the Canada Goose family noted above (AM, JM).

S.A.

A special appeal for information about breeding Upland Sandpipers elicited reports about a meager handful of sites. Two pairs, including a nest with 4 eggs, were found in a remnant "prairie" habitat at Lawn, Lebanon Co., Pa. (RS), two pairs were seen at Gettysburg Nat'l Military Pk. (*fide* T. Hake), two pairs were noted at Phila. Internat'l Airport (JCM) and one pair was discovered at Steelville, Pa. (J. Sheetz). These seven pairs represent the known s.e. Pennsylvania population, although in the 1960s Cutler knew of 4 other sites in the Philadelphia area alone. In New Jersey, Upland Sandpipers have ceased nesting in 7 counties within the last 10 years and are now known to nest only at Reaville, Hunterdon Co., (two pairs—GH), Mullica Hill, Gloucester Co. (JKM), Harrisonville and Sharptown, Salem Co. (JKM,RK) and Pomona, Atlantic Co. (RK). Kane has proposed that they be given Endangered Species status in New Jersey. In New York, the species breeds at Blue Chip Farm, Ulster Co. (flightless young in 1980) and possibly at Stewart Airport, Orange Co. (JT), at Westhampton Airport, and probably at Grumman Airport on Long Island. The Upland Sandpiper's one stronghold in the Region is, ironically, within the city limits of New York, at Kennedy Internat'l Airport, where a stable population of 15-20 pairs nests successfully on the acres of grass surrounding the runways, oblivious to the comings and goings of hundreds of jet aircraft each day (S. Chevalier). We should be grateful for further information about this threatened species.

The fall shorebird migration, which, as usual, nearly overlapped with the spring migration, got underway at Cape May on the early date of June 24 with the arrival of ten Lesser Yellowlegs, two Short-billed Dowitchers and a Pectoral Sandpiper (PD). Two Baird's Sandpipers were at Cape May July 27 (BR) and a single bird was noted at Turkey Swamp, Monmouth Co., N.J., July 29 (J. Peachey). A Curlew Sandpiper in partial breeding plumage appeared at J.B.W.R., July 20-31+ (THD *et al.*). Three very early Long-billed Dowitchers were reported from Cape May July 16 (BR), while Short-billed Dowitchers peaked at B.N.W.R., July 20 with a count of 5450 (JD, JKM). The first Marbled Godwits of the season were four

heading S over Stone Harbor Pt., N.J., July 21 (CS), while as many as eight Hudsonian Godwits were present in mid-July on the Line Is. in S. Oyster Bay, L.I. (THD *et al.*). An excellent inland record of Hudsonian was provided by a bird at Peace Valley Pk., Bucks Co., Pa., July 12 (AM, JM). An interesting report of Wilson's Phalarope was of a female at Long Beach, L.I., June 3 in salt marsh (FGB, PAB). This species has recently been found breeding in similar habitat on the coast of Massachusetts and should be watched for in our Region. One wonders if the breeding-plumaged female at Cape May June 27 and the winter-plumaged male there June 30 (PD) were post-breeding migrants from some not-too-distant location. A ♀ Ruff was at J.B.W.R., July 13-20 (THD *et al.*) and two were at B.N.W.R., July 20 (JD, JKM). No Am. Avocets were reported away from B.H.N.W.R. and the only Black-necked Stilts n. of Delaware were two at J.B.W.R., June 14 (TWB, S. Stappers). The Port Mahon, Del., stilt colony is stable at 17-25 pairs (DAC).

GULLS, TERNS—The big news about gulls came from J.B.W.R., where last year's colony of 12-15 pairs of Laughing Gulls accomplished the first successful nesting for this species on Long Island since the 1880s. This year's numbers swelled to 235 nests, a dramatic increase whose details will be published elsewhere (FGB, PAB). Gull-billed Terns nested again on Long Island, where a nest was found in salt marsh at Long Beach in June (R. Kremer, *fide* PAB). They apparently nested at B.N.W.R. as usual, since six birds seen there Aug. 3 included two immatures (WJB, JB, PWS). The Captree S.B.C. recorded 180 Roseate Terns at the Cedar Beach colony, but at Great Gull Island, off Long Island, the population was down to about 800 pairs. There has been a steady decline from the 1500+ pairs of 7 years ago, possibly caused by encroaching vegetation around the perimeter of the nesting area, but it is felt that the colony may have stabilized at its present level (JDiC).

The Delaware Least Tern Census June 14, found 935 adults in 7 colonies, about the average for the last few years. Sixty-nine young and 270 nests were found, but, because the method of census was changed to reduce the chance of disruption, the results are not directly comparable to those of previous years. In New Jersey no quantitative data were available, but Least Terns were reported to have had a very successful breeding season (JGa). About one-third of a flock of 25 at Longport, July 27 were immature (SL). Except for a group of five non-breeders on the Captree S.B.C., Royal Terns were late in arriving this year, the usual large flocks not appearing until the beginning of August. The only Sandwich Tern reported was an adult at Mecox, L.I., July 3 (AJL). After missing last year, an ad. **White-winged Black Tern** returned to L.C.W.M.A., July 19 (Al Guarenti, Tom Reeves), but was not seen thereafter. This may have been the same bird seen earlier at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va., since that one was not seen after July 17 (*fide* DAC). The perennial question that remains, though, concerns the origin of these birds. Black Skimmers reached the record total of 341 on

Captree S.B.C. and had a very successful nesting season in New Jersey (JGa). The nesting of a colony at Stone Harbor Pt. produced about 200 young, with some downy chicks and even birds on eggs at the end of August (AG)! An ad. **Thick-billed Murre** at Tobay Beach, L.I., July 13 established the first summer record of this species since 1966 (P. Martin, ph BS).

CUCKOOS THROUGH FLY-CATCHERS—Yellow-billed Cuckoos continue to increase explosively in response to the recurring infestations of tent caterpillars. They have become regular backyard breeders in the Philadelphia suburbs (DAC) and the 85 recorded on the S. Lancaster County S.B.C. was a 21-fold increase over the four seen on the 1977 count. Other high counts were 65 on the C. Suffolk County S.B.C., 17 on the Captree S.B.C. and 46 on the Cumberland County S.B.C. Barn Owls are common over most of the Region and appear only to require adequate nesting sites in order to take up residence in appropriate habitat. Thomas found six nesting pairs in Sussex County, N.J., including birds in 4 of 12 nest boxes which he has put up for them in unused silos. In Chester County, Pa., Sterrett banded 18 young in 4 nests, two of them in boxes and all within 1¼ miles of Westtown School. Soucy located 34 active nests in Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, N.J., which produced an average of 4.0 young/nest, very close to the 8-year norm. All but 2 of the nests were in man-made structures, including 6 in nest boxes. There were 2 reports of possible breeding Long-eared Owls from n.w. New Jersey in June, one at Scott's Mt. (Mike Thomas) and one at Blairstown (William Heyne), both in Warren County, from which there have been no previous nesting records. The species is rare and irregular as a nester in the Region. Short-eared Owl, on the other hand, may be on the verge of disappearing as a breeding species: there were no reports from Long Island and only one from New Jersey, that of a pair at Holgate in June and July (*fide* WJB). Kelly Island, Del., and T.N.E.C. are two other known breeding locations.

Chuck-will's-widows continue to expand on the New Jersey coast, displacing the Whip-poor-will as they increase. Ten to fifteen were in the Barnegat Bay area in June, along with a nest with 2 eggs and two young (Kate Duffy). On Long Island, two were on the Captree S.B.C. and one on the C. Suffolk County S.B.C. Whip-poor-wills were doing well in n.e. Pennsylvania (BM, WR) and 24 were recorded on the C. Suffolk County S.B.C. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and Belted Kingfishers, two species which seem to have declined as breeders in recent years, were reported more often than previously this year, especially on the S. Lancaster County S.B.C. with 14 and 16, respectively.

The status of Red-headed Woodpeckers appears to be changing. While they were reported as "widespread and uncommon" in Orange County, N.Y. (JT), and one was reported from Dutchess County, N.Y. (P. & T. Haight), they have nearly disappeared from former territories in n. New Jersey, only 2 possible breeding sites remaining (GH, FT). During June and July, however, at least five

pairs were discovered in the Lebanon S.F. in the New Jersey Pine Barrens (WW, SB, TP). Other pairs were at nearby Pasadena and Colliers Mills W. M. A. (*vide* WW), along with the small colony at Cape May Court House. These represent a significant increase for the s. part of the Region. A nesting pair on the S. Lancaster County S.B.C. was new to the count, but no breeding birds were reported from e. Long Island where they have nested in recent years, although an adult was found dead at Lindenhurst, July 21 (AJL).

Vagrant flycatchers included a W. Kingbird at Cape May Pt., July 17 (B. Bailey), a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Manorville, L.I., June 14 (GSR) and another, or perhaps the same one, at Ft. Tilden, Queens, L.I., June 30-July 4 (J. Parker, ph THD *et al.*). Acadian Flycatcher continues to expand and increase in every corner of the Region. In contrast to what was written in this column only 2 years ago (*AB* 32:1145), this species and not the Willow Flycatcher now appears to be the most widely distributed and possibly the commonest *Empidonax*. The S. Lancaster County S.B.C. had a record high 116. Willows are fairly common over most of the area and Alder Flycatchers were widely reported from the n. half of the Region. The story on the Least Flycatcher was less conclusive, with some observers commenting on their near total disappearance (GH, RFD) and others finding encouraging numbers (S. Lancaster S.B.C., W. Chester S.B.C., RB, WJB, DAC) following recent declines (see also spring report).

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS—Bank Swallow colonies tend to move around because so many of the birds choose to nest in quarries. The large colony along the Delaware R., near Lambertville, N.J., finally lost out to the earth-movers, but a disused quarry on Rt. 23 near Hamburg, N.J., had 200± active nests. A locally rare breeding colony of ten pairs nested at L. Tappan, Rockland Co., N.Y. (RFD). Cliff Swallow may be slowly recovering in the Region, with 20 on the S. Lancaster S.B.C., and 12 at Paulinskill L., N.J. where all six e. swallow species were present June 22 and presumed nesting (JB, WJB). The pair of Com. Ravens near Red Rock, Pa., in the spring was not noted during June-July, but was seen again in early August (Earle Cowden). These birds, along with a group of four seen all day June 14 at Slide Mt., Ulster Co., N.Y. (J. Yrizarry *et al.*) suggest that breeding in the Region is imminent, if not already established. At Chestnut Hill, Phila., a chickadee which appeared to be a Carolina sang both Carolina and Black-capped songs and responded to both (KR). This is an area of overlap of the two species, and birds with intermediate characteristics are expected, but how common are birds singing both songs? Red-breasted Nuthatches nested at two s.e. Pennsylvania locations (see spring report) and were found at 8 different sites on the New Jersey Highlands B.B.S., and at 4 in Orange Co., N.Y., including two pairs with three young each (GB, RSp, JBe). The northernmost U.S. pair of Brown-headed Nuthatches was feeding young in the dock piling nest at Henlopen Acres, Del., June 2 (BF). Brown Creepers continue to spread S as breeders within the Region. In s.

New Jersey they were considered well distributed, with one or two pairs in each of 10 different cedar swamps (WW, TP). Seven birds were found on the two Long Island S.B.C.s and six adults and two immatures were at Smithtown (Ken Ward), while in Pennsylvania two pairs nested successfully at Revere, Bucks Co. (S. Farbotnik) and one was on the S. Lancaster County S.B.C.

A Short-billed Marsh Wren at Hurlock's Creek, n.e. Pa., July 27 (WR) was the only one reported outside of Delaware, which has a small breeding population at three locations. Eastern Bluebirds were reported in excellent numbers from e. Pennsylvania, n. New Jersey, and s. New York, with one observer (JGr) suggesting that "it's strictly a management problem now . . . bluebirds are over the hump." One pair in Wyoming, Pa., began nesting June 28 in a box recently vacated by a brood of Tree Swallows (WR). Another species slowly spreading in our Region is the Golden-crowned Kinglet. Pairs with young were at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Westchester Co., N.Y. (TWB) and at Black Rock Forest, Orange Co., N.Y. (RSp, JBe), while 11 singing on the New Jersey Highlands B.B.S. were at 6 different locations, mainly in spruce plantings. Solitary Vireos were widely reported from the n. part of the Region, but one on the S. Lancaster County S.B.C. was far from any known breeding location.

WARBLERS—Since the status of many of the 30 species of warblers known to breed in the Region was reviewed 2 years ago (*AB* 32:1145) there have been a few noteworthy developments. Blue-winged Warbler now appears to be more common than Golden-winged in nearly all areas, although the latter does not appear to have declined substantially in some areas, e.g. Orange County, N.Y. (JT) and New Jersey Highlands B.B.S., and is still the dominant species in Perry County, Pa. (O.K. Stephenson). Nashville Warbler reappeared this year in the s. portion of its breeding range, with eight birds in Orange-Rockland Counties, N.Y. (GB, RSp, JBe) and two, apparently unattached, males on the New Jersey Highlands B.B.S. in June. The Northern Parula may be slowly reestablishing itself as a regional breeder, with 18 birds seen on the S. Lancaster County S.B.C., one on the W. Chester S.B.C. and one on the Cumberland County S.B.C. The Delaware Valley population of recent years in Bucks County, Pa.-Hunterdon County, N.J. was not mentioned this year, but is presumably still present. Two ♂ Magnolia Warblers were found on the New Jersey Highlands B.B.S. and may have been nesting, but one in Whippany, N.J., June 14 (PD) was surely a wanderer. A ♂ Yellow-rumped Warbler was found on the New Jersey Highlands B.B.S. at the site of last year's first New Jersey nesting record, but apparently had no mate. A similar unmated male was found at Sterling Forest, N.Y., for the second year in a row (RSp, JBe), but successfully-breeding birds were in Dutchess County, N.Y. (MVW) and n.e. Pennsylvania, where they are sporadic but increasing (WR).

A survey of the Pine Barrens of s. New Jersey in June found Black-throated Green

Warblers common and well dispersed in cedar swamps with at least 50 singing males (WW, TP). One on the Captree S.B.C. at Connetquot River S.P. was in similar habitat and may have been breeding. Cerulean Warblers are being reported from many new locations and are increasingly common in the n. parts of our area. From the opposite direction, N. Waterthrushes are increasing in the Highlands of New York-New Jersey and a singing male at Colliers Mills W.M.A., Ocean Co., N.J. in May and June (SB, WW) was s. of any known breeding site. Kentucky Warblers are gradually reclaiming areas abandoned in the early part of the century, with numerous birds in n. New Jersey and eight prospecting males in s. New York. Long Island had its second nesting record, a pair that fledged young at Mill Neck in June (Helen McClure, BS *et al.*). Canada Warblers were found in 4 different cedar swamps in s. New Jersey (WW, TP). Interestingly, this species, which is closely associated with the Hooded Warbler in the laurel understory of the New York-New Jersey Highlands prefers the same neighbors in the s.

GRACKLES THROUGH SPARROWS—A report of a ♀ Boat-tailed Grackle at J.B.W.R., June 6 (F. Scheider *et al.*) provided the only observation of this expanding species from Long Island, where they may have nested last year. An ad. ♂ **Western Tanager** at Ward Pound Ridge July 7 (TWB, Rich Kelly) was an outstanding summer find. The discovery of four pairs of Summer Tanagers in Lebanon S.F., N.J., including a nest with young (SB, TP, WW), extended that species' known breeding range in the state and Region n. 50 mi. A pair found at E. Orange Water Reserve on the Boonton S.B.C. was at the same location as a pair in 1978 and suggests that another jump in the n. breeding limit may be in store. Blue Grosbeaks are increasing dramatically in Delaware (MVB, BF, AE) and are seeking out new territories in c. and n. New Jersey (RK), including one on the Boonton S.B.C. Purple Finches were fairly common on the New Jersey Highlands B.B.S. this year, but were considered scarce just to the n. in Rockland and Orange counties, N.Y. (RSp).

The report on field-nesting sparrows was mixed. Savannah Sparrows were well distributed in alfalfa fields in s. Warren Co., N.J., with 20+ pairs (GH) and nine were seen on the C. Suffolk County S.B.C., in addition to the regular Unionville, Pa., colony. Excellent numbers of Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from Lewes, Del. (BF), Middle Creek W. M. A., Pa. (RW) and on the C. Suffolk County S.B.C. Smaller numbers were found in scattered parts of New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania, but none from s. New York. Two Henslow's Sparrows at Harvey's L., Luzerne Co., Pa. (WR, m.ob.) were the only ones reported, but they presumably still breed at Broadkill Beach, Del. Vesper Sparrows were common only near New Holland, Pa., Lincoln, Del. and s. Warren Co., N.J. Other reports came from C. Suffolk S.B.C., S. Lancaster S.B.C., e.c. Pennsylvania (BM) and a new colony of 5-6 pairs at Mercer County Pk. near Lawrenceville, N.J. (RB). These last three species, all Blue-listed, have declined significantly in the Region in recent



Chestnut-collared Longspur, Cape May Pt., N.J., June 18, 1980. Photo/Wesley Doughty.

years and any reports of breeding birds would be appreciated. Singing ♂ White-throated Sparrows were at Harriman Pk., and West Point, N.Y. (RSp, JBe) and at Hardwick, N.J. (Floyd Wohlfarth), but a pair with one young seen on the New Jersey Highlands B.B.S. provided the first confirmed breeding record for the state since 1973 (WJB, JB). The final item of this report is, appropriately, the bird-of-the-season: a ♂ **Chestnut-collared**

Longspur in breeding plumage found and photographed at Cape May June 18 (WD, SJ, m.ob., ph WD). This bird provided the first confirmed state record and one of a handful of Regional records.

OBSERVERS—(Subregional compilers in boldface): Peter Bacinski, **Maurice V. Barnhill** (Del.: Box 7603, Newark, Del. 19711), John Benzinger (JBe), **Irving H. Black** (n.e. N.J.: 2 Beaumont Place, Newark, N.J. 07104), **Raymond Blicharz** (n.c. N.J.: 827 Pennsylvania Ave., Trenton, N.J. 08638), Barry Blust, Alan Brady, Sharon Brady, Gene Brown, Fran G. Buckley, Paul A. Buckley, Joe Burgiel, **Thomas W. Burke** (Westchester Co., N.Y.: 235 Highland Ave., Rye, N.Y. 10580), **David A. Cutler** (s.e. Pa., Del.: address below), John Danzenbaker, **Thomas H. Davis** (s.e. N.Y., L.I.: 94-46 85th Road, Woodhaven, N.Y. 10241), **Robert F. Deed** (Rockland Co., N.Y.: 50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, N.Y. 10960), Peter Derven (PDe), Joe DiCostanzo, Wesley Doughty, **Peter Dunne** (coastal N.J.: CMBO, Box 3, Cape May Pt., N.J. 08212), Andrew Ednie, Fran File, Bill Frech, Anne Galli, Joan Galli (JGa), Florence Germond, John Ginaven (JGi), Jeff Gordon, Jesse Grantham, Great

Swamp N.W.R., **Greg Hanisek** (n.w. N.J.: R.D. 3, Box 263, Phillipsburg, N.J. 08865), Gene K. Hess (GKH), Armis Hill, S.P. Homsey, Peggy Jahn, Steve Jennings, Cliff Jones, Rich Kane, Don Kunkle, A.J. Lauro, Steve Lawrence, Glenn Mahler, **J.K. Meritt** (s.w. N.J.: 809 Saratoga Terr., Turnersville, N.J. 08012), John C. Miller, August Mirabella, Judy Mirabella, **Bernard Morris** (e. Pa.: 825 Muhlenberg St., Allentown, Pa., 18104), D.M. Niles, Ted Proctor, Rick Radis, Gilbert S. Raynor, **William Reid** (n.e. Pa. 556 Charles Ave., Kingston, Pa. 18704), Bob Russel, Keith Russell, Richard Ryan, Paul Saraceni, R.M. Schutsky, V.J. Schwartz, P. William Smith, Len Soucy, Robert Speiser (RSp), Barbara Spencer, Tim Sterrett, Clay Sutton, Fred Tetlow, Stiles Thomas, **John Tramontano** (Orange, Ulster Cos., N.Y.: Orange Co. Community College, Middletown, N.Y. 10940), Marion VanWagner, Tim Vogel, Wade Wander, R.T. Waterman Bird Club (Dutchess Co., N.Y.), Winston Wayne (WWa), Rick Wiltraut.—**WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR.**, 15 Indian Rock Road, Warren, N.J. 07060, **ROBERT O. PAXTON**, 560 Riverside Drive, Apt. 12K, New York, N.Y. 10027 and **DAVID A. CUTLER**, 1110 Rock Creek Dr., Wyncote, Pa. 19095.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Henry T. Armistead

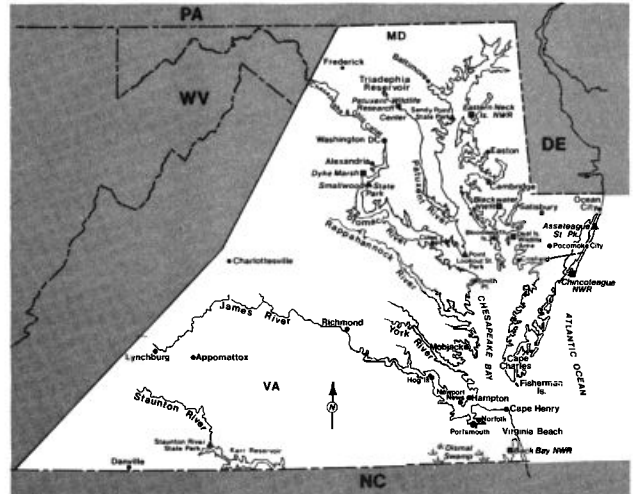
June was cool and dry with much of the precipitation concentrated in some areas in several thunderstorms that brought often only local or temporary relief to the dry land. Most stations received less than one-half normal rainfall in June. Accompanying several storms were violent winds which undoubtedly seriously damaged heronries and large raptor nests as well as those of many other species, although this drew little commentary. Brutal heat began in July and the drought intensified. Fairfax, Virginia, had its hottest July in 108 years of record-keeping, with temperatures over 90°F on 21 dates. Richmond recorded the driest June ever, and its ninth hottest July, when temperatures reached 90° or higher on 19 days. Reservoirs were low. Refuge impoundments verged on drying up, a possible explanation for the good showing of herons and ibises further inland. In spite of these meteorological vicissitudes many observers felt the breeding season was successful for many commoner landbirds. There was a dearth of reports for most passerines in contrast to those resulting from the much more intensive coverage of the colonial bird scene on the Bay and coast islands, and good shorebirding along the coast. The season provided a remarkable number of boldfaced rarities considering that this is the shortest report period and there is less field activity here in this season than in any other.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS—Three Com. Loons seen each day at L. Anna, Louisa Co., Va., June 27 (TDW), Choptank

R., Md., July 7 (JGR) and Chincoteague N.W.R., July 22-25 (JMA), were undoubtedly subadult non-breeding lingerers, but ones at Sandy Pt. S.P. (hereafter S.P.S.P.) June 4 & 9 in strong northward flight were late migrants (MLH, HW). The motives of another, northbound over land at Bellevue, Md., July 4, are less clear (HTA, C&RP). At Chincoteague, 25 Pied-billed Grebes were seen July 12 (DFA, HB) while in Maryland six were at Fairmount W.M.A., July 2, and 108 at Deal I. W.M.A., July 3 (HTA), probably their 3 best breeding areas in this Region.

Greater Shearwaters were found off Wreck I., Va., July 9 (four) and up to 60 mi from the mouth of Chesapeake Bay (hereafter, the Bay) July 25 (30) by Truitt. At Fisherman I. N.W.R., June 21, three dead ones were found in company with two dead Sooty Shearwaters (RLA). A pelagic trip out of Ocean City yielded 60 Cory's, 100 Greater and 20 Sooty shearwaters, plus 2500 Wilson's Storm-Petrels and a very well-described **Black-capped Petrel** June 14 (MLH *et al.*), apparently the first inshore record for Maryland. An albino Cory's Shearwater and ten Leach's Storm-Petrels were 100 mi e. of Cape Charles July 23 (RAR).

White Pelicans are becoming almost



regular, with one at Cedar I. W.M.A., Md., July 11-18+ (RWM *et al.*) that was also seen in the Virginia part of the Bay nearby. Another was at Fisherman I. N.W.R., June 4 (MAB, *vide* Back Bay N.W.R. staff). The only Brown Pelican report was of one at Lynnhaven Inlet, Va., June 26 (HCI). Unusual was an imm. Gannet in flight at Chincoteague July 14 (KHW). Double-crested Cormorant did not breed near Hopewell, Va., as it had in 1978 (FRS), but elsewhere on the lower Bay summered in high numbers with minimal counts of 185 n. of Tangier I., Va., July 5 (FRS, JWD) and 93 at Bloodsworth I., Md., June 7 (HTA, EMW, JCW). Well seen was a **Magnificent Frigatebird** at Hog I. (hereafter refers to the Hog I. on the Virginia coast) June 29 (BT) which furnished

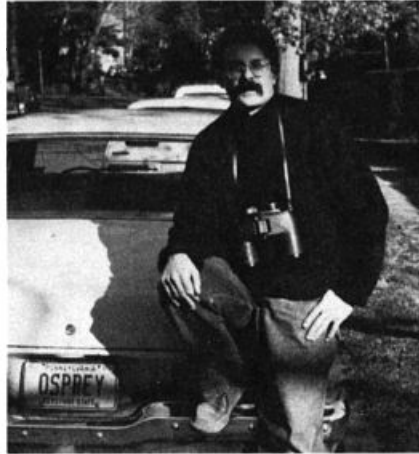
the fifth state record.

HERONS THROUGH IBISES—For the sixth consecutive year colonial waterbirds were surveyed on Virginia's Eastern Shore (hereafter, Va.E.S.) excluding the Chincoteague and Wallops I. areas and "by all indications...had an extremely successful season" based on observations made June 23-27 (BW,BA). As usual no Great Blue Heron nests were found, but the most numerous species were (number of adults seen): Black-crowned Night Heron 836, Glossy Ibis 389, Louisiana Heron 382 and Snowy Egret 332. However, most species are down from the numbers reported in 1975-1977. On the lower Maryland Eastern Shore (hereafter, Md.E.S.) 1747 pairs of ten heron species were estimated, down from 2502 in 1973 and 2164 in 1978 with all species showing declines from 1978 except Louisiana Heron (206) and Glossy Ibis (166). Most numerous were Black-crowned Night Heron (477), Great Blue Heron (277), Louisiana Heron and Glossy Ibis (HTA *et al.*). Obviously these birds merit careful monitoring.

Low water levels at Chincoteague yielded impressive reports such as 450 Little Blue Herons, 150 Great Egrets, 1150 Snowy Egrets and 525 Glossy Ibis July 12 (DFA,HB). Excellent later counts further inland were 32 Great Egrets at Lily Pons July 31 (RFR,RB), 12 at Upper Marlboro July 27 (RMP), and 18 Snowy Egrets and an unusual Louisiana Heron at Baltimore July 29 (RFR). An ad. Black-crowned Night Heron was seen to grab an Am. Oystercatcher chick at Hog I., June 14 (BT)—such are the charms of this demure species. An imm. Yellow-crowned Night Heron at S.P.S.P., July 10 was locally notable (MLH,HW) as were 12 at Chincoteague July 12 (DFA,HB). Breeding season Am. Bitterns persist with sightings of one in Surry Co., Va., July 20 (BW), three at Fairmount W.M.A., and one at Deal I. W.M.A., June 18 (MLH). Unique were two Wood Storks present at Newport News July 12-19 (DM *et al.*). At Lily Pons were 1-3 Glossy Ibises July 16-27 (DHW,RFR).

The feature of the season was the big influx of **White Ibises**, the first since 1977. Birds at Hog and Fisherman Is., where breeding has been suspected and proven respectively in previous years, were seen again in 1980 (*vide* BW). Several were at Chincoteague from at least June 16-early August (MLH,JPW,DFA, m.ob.). Five immatures were at New Kent, Va., July 30 (JPW, *vide* FRS) and 4 immatures at Silver Spring, Md., July 13 (SW, *vide* CPW). In the Washington, D.C. area one team saw five immatures July 27 spread over 3 counties (RFR,RB). The majority of the records were from this area somewhat in the interior at locations such as Patuxent W.R.C., Lily Pons, Hughes Hollow and McKee-Beshers W.M.A. (DHW, PW, DB *et al.*) in Maryland. Two were seen at Newport News July 20 (M&DM). Most were immatures or subadults.

WATERFOWL—Mute Swans continue to increase at Chincoteague and in the central Md.E.S. On July 12, 71 were at Chincoteague, none of them birds of the year (DFA,HB). Eastern Neck N.W.R. staff reported up to 160 on this Maryland refuge (*vide* RFR). For an excellent review of the



Regional Editor Henry T. Armistead with Osprey.

spread of Mute Swan on the Bay see *Auk*, July 1980, pp. 449-464 (JGR). Three pairs of Canada Geese bred at Dyke Marsh near Washington, D.C., producing young—the first year more than two pairs have bred (JMA). Small numbers of Brant were seen throughout June on the Va.E.S., including up to seven near Parramore I., June 14 (BT). Duck production seemed excellent on the lower Bay, especially at Deal I. W.M.A., Maryland's best summer duck area. Here July 3 were 65 Mallards, 135 Black Ducks (six broods), 130 Gadwall (four broods), six Green-winged Teal, and 95 Blue-winged Teal (seven broods)—(HTA). A Ruddy Shelduck was at Chincoteague again this summer July 4-13 (DFA,HB), undoubtedly an escape. Gadwall continue to flourish as breeders with a female and seven young on Smith I., Va., June 12 (BT), a pair on Hog I., June 14 (BT) and 80 n. of Tangier I., including four broods, July 1 (CDC,HTA). A Pintail was at Chincoteague July 6 (RFR). Worth mentioning in retrospect is Maryland's first breeding record of **Pintail** in Sinepuxent Bay s. of South Pt., June 12, 1979, where a female flushed off a nest with 12 eggs (SAD *et al.*, *vide* HTA). Virginia's only 3 breeding records are from nearby Chincoteague. Green-winged Teal continue to maintain a regular but scarce presence during the breeding season. Maryland and Virginia have but one breeding record each. One or two were seen at Hunting Creek, Va., July 24 (DFA,HB), Assateague I., Md., June 17 (MLH), Deal I. W.M.A., July 18 (MLH) and Fairmount W.M.A., July 2 (HTA). At Lily Pons 48 young Wood Ducks were seen this summer (DHW).

From one to two Canvasbacks were at Baltimore June 13-22 (RFR). A Greater Scaup was at Hunting Creek July 7-14 (DFA,JMA,HB). Two Oldsquaws were at S.P.S.P. June 10 (MLH) and two more at Nelson's I., Md., June 15 (HTA). More unusual was a ♀ Com. Eider capable of flight on Little Cobb I., Va., July 10-11 (JSW). Black Scoters were seen near Metomkin I., Va., June 25 (two) and Parramore I., June 26 (one)—(BW). As usual Ruddy Ducks summered in small numbers including three at Hog I., June 28-29 (BT), four in Baltimore June 13-28 (RFR) and as many as 13 on Chincoteague N.W.R., June 16-July 17 (MLH). Breeding has yet to be confirmed in Maryland

or Virginia.

HAWKS THROUGH RAILS—At the suggestion of Patterson and others, a voluntary apres-Breeding Bird Survey count of diurnal raptors was instituted, the feeling being that these birds were not accurately censused by the B.B.S., which for most persons is over by 0930 hours. Results are forthcoming—probably elsewhere. The fancy hawk this summer was a **Mississippi Kite** well studied by raptor expert Clark near Oak Grove, Va., June 1—Virginia's fifth. A Sharp-shinned Hawk nest was discovered in mid-June in Prince William County, Va., and fledged three young July 28 (CK,WSC)—the second recent state breeding record away from the mountains. Another was seen near Dahlgren, Va., June 1 (WSC). Near Royal Oak, Md., a Red-shouldered Hawk was locally unusual June 7 (JGR). In the Laurel, Md., area 30 pairs fledged 60 young, the highest success in 10 years of study following the lowest success in 1979 (EMn). A Broad-winged Hawk nest was found in Parklawn Cemetery, Rockville, Md., June 22 (EMW).

The Chesapeake Bay Bald Eagle Nesting Survey was encouraging, finding the "greatest number of successful nests and the largest number of eaglets hatched in any season since the survey began." However, "the Maryland population is showing a small but steady rise in the number of nests which are abandoned each year. For the first year since the early 1960s Virginia produced more young/active nest than did Maryland (1.0 vs 0.76). Both figures are above the 0.7 average which is frequently quoted as the minimum average required to sustain a viable population." (JMA) In the Bay area 83 active nests were found, 70 young produced, and 61 young banded (JMA,MAB,WSC *et al.*), six young being fitted with radios. Two successful nests had active gray squirrel nests in them. Abbott cautions that an eagle in an incubating posture is not always a certain sign of an active nest.

Marsh Hawks were noted near the s. edge of their breeding range at Hog I., June 23 (BW) and E. Vaughn W.M.A., Md., June 15 (MLH). At Deal I. W.M.A., in "late May", a nest with three young and two pipping eggs was found (SAD, *vide* HTA). Ospreys suffered considerable mortality from windstorms in late June and early July when large young were blown out of their nests. On the lower Patuxent R., Md., 14 young from 37 nests were presumed to have disappeared for this reason (SVC, *vide* EJW). On Smith I., Md., 58 Ospreys were banded in one day in late June—all before 1000 hours by a party in one boat, showing what can be accomplished with a good tide, local expertise and a big outboard (MH). In Virginia Peregrines were hatched in Norfolk as well as on 3 islands on the Va.E.S. In Anne Arundel and Prince Georges counties, Md., Patterson conducted studies of 25 Am. Kestrel nests extending the known extreme late egg date from the previous June 2 record to at least July 16 (pair from a failed nest in a second nesting attempt). He feels wild birds are attracted to the area around Patuxent W.R.C. because of the many penned birds there, perhaps the same reason several Bald Eagles have been loitering there recently. Kestrels in Anne Arundel County capture Bank Swallows,

both adults in the air and young on the ground, and may inflict as much as 10% mortality on one particular swallow colony (RMP). An early postbreeding kestrel was at Blackwater N.W.R., July 5 (HTA,C&RP).

Bobwhite are still perceived to be low in numbers. Thirty Virginia Rails and one Black Rail were heard at Elliott I., Md., June 21 (TA, *fide* JGR). Two pairs of Black Rails summered at S.P.S.P. (HW). Rare as breeders in the Region, Soras were at Lily Pons July 6-20 (DHW), S.P.S.P., June 21 (HW) and Deal I. W.M.A., June 18 (MLH). Over the years enough records have accumulated to suggest they may be very rare nesting birds on the lower Md.E.S., but a nest has yet to be found. Several broods of Com. Gallinule were seen at Fairmount W.M.A., and Deal I. W.M.A., June 18 and July 2-3 (MLH,HTA). Two young Am. Coot were at Deal I. W.M.A., July 13 (RFR, RB)—one of the few Maryland breeding records. Sixty coots were there July 18 (MLH) and two summered near Baltimore (RB).

SHOREBIRDS—Low water and much mud at Chincoteague furnished good shorebird habitat in July with estimates such as 5000 Least and 4000 W. sandpipers, 1000 Short-billed Dowitchers, and 2000 Lesser Yellowlegs submitted for July 17 (MLH)—and these were considered low. Were the following on Assateague I., Md., June 17 coming, going or staying?: Semipalmated Plover 9, Black-bellied Plover 10, Ruddy Turnstone 22, Red Knot 1, White-rumped Sandpiper 1, Dunlin 1, Semipalmated Sandpiper 30 (MLH). American Oystercatchers declined from 1239 to 746 ad. birds observed on the Va.E.S. in June 1979 and 1980 respectively (BW). On Assateague I., Md., Dyke saw them feeding on mole crabs at the surf line. The numbers of Wilson's Plover and to a lesser extent Piping Plover seem to be decreasing in Virginia (BW). Piping Plover displays an affinity for Least Tern colonies and 68 adults were found on the Va.E.S. in June (BW). Wilds noted 50 at Chincoteague July 24-25. B. Williams only found 20 ad. Wilson's Plover in Virginia in June but 16 were at Chincoteague July 27 (DJH) and seven on Assateague I., Md., June 17 where the peak Piping Plover count was 30 on July 14 (MLH). The only Am. Golden Plover was one at Chincoteague July 20-27 (DJH).

From one to five Ruddy Turnstones were seen in mid-June at Hog I. (BT), Ocean City (RFR) and Chincoteague (MLH). A Whimbrel was at Chincoteague N.W.R. June 16 (MLH) but the first southbound ones were five on Assateague I., Md., July 5 (SHD). Rare on the Bay, one was at S.P.S.P., July 25 (HW). The best count was 135 there July 16 (MLH). Early were five Upland Sandpipers at Greensboro, Md., July 6-27 (AJF). More in line were 14 at Cape Charles, Va., July 13 (FRS,JWD) and seven on Chincoteague N.W.R., July 17 & 25 (CPW). Up to six Spotted Sandpipers were on the Va.E.S., mostly near Nassawadox June 16-July 7 (BT). There are no definite Virginia coastal plain breeding records. Willets peaked at 250 July 24 on Assateague I., Md. (MLH). Estimates of 1000 Lesser Yellowlegs on each date were given for July 12 at Chincoteague (DFA,HB)

and July 24 & 29 at Craney I., Va. (TRW). Seven Red Knots were on Hog I., June 14 (BT) and nine at Ocean City June 15 (RFR). Hoffman saw 15 southbound on Assateague I., July 16, probably a record Maryland fall arrival date. Very early Pectoral Sandpipers were at Chincoteague July 5-6 (three by DFA, HB) but 15 there July 11 were more on schedule (FRS,JWD). At Craney I., 25 White-rumped Sandpipers were seen June 1 (DFA, HB). The lone Baird's Sandpiper report was of two at Chincoteague July 10 (JMA). The earliest peep, Least Sandpiper, had already built up to 600, July 4 and 1500, July 12 at Chincoteague (DFA,HB). Outstanding was a **Curlew Sandpiper** at Chincoteague July 19-22 (EMn,AH,DJH). Ten Short-billed Dowitchers were at Ocean City June 15 (RFR), 100 on Parramore I., June 16 (BT) but only 20 at Chincoteague June 22 (HB, DFA). Extraordinary were three Stilt Sandpipers at Chincoteague June 21, one lingering until June 23 and 15 were there July 12 (DFA, HB).

Marbled Godwits were reported in Virginia June 24-July 19 at Chincoteague, Nassawadox, Parramore I., and Ship Shoal I., the peak count being ten at Chincoteague July 19 (EMn). The sole Maryland bird was one on Assateague I., July 16 (MLH). Chincoteague boasted the only Hudsonian Godwit records between July 5 & 29, the peak being Buckalew's count of 14 on July 29, and Ruffs were there July 4-27 with three on both July 6 (RFR *et al.*) and July 12 (HB,DFA) tying the Virginia high count. Hoffman saw 750 Sanderlings on Assateague I., Md., July 24. American Avocets frequented Chincoteague July 12-August with a high of 10 on July 24 (CPW). As usual, Craney I. had huge numbers with 117 on July 11 (FRS,JWD), 500 on July 15 (HCI, who stopped counting at 347 and estimated the rest) and 300 on July 29 (TRW). Still a rarity in Maryland a Black-necked Stilt was on Smith I., June 17 (MH, *fide* HTA) and two were at Deal I. W.M.A., July 2-13 (HTA,RFR, RB). Wilson's Phalaropes were at Chincoteague June 21-July 19 (DFA,HB). Martin saw two there July 19. Others were at Craney I., June 1 (DFA,HB) and S.P.S.P., July 3 (HW).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS—Along the coast gulls, terns and skimmers had a successful breeding season (JHB,BW). A Parasitic Jaeger off Ocean City June 14 (*fide* MLH) was unique. A Great Black-backed Gull at Hopewell July 20 furnished the first local July record (FRS,JWD). Seven large young were on the Bay near Shanks I., Va., July 1 (CDC,HTA); Smith I., Md., had an estimated 51 breeding pairs June 28-July 1 (CDC,HTA,EMW) and a nest with one egg at Holland I., Md., provided Dorchester County's first breeding record June 7 (EMW,JCW,HTA). The small Virginia coast population doubled from six pairs in 1979 to about 12 pairs (BW). On Assateague I., Md., two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen July 16 and one on July 24 (MLH). Herring Gulls continue to thrive, increasing near the limits of their Chesapeake range from six breeding pairs (1978) to 39 at Holland I., June 7 (HTA,JCW,EMW). On the Virginia coast the total of nearly 1400 pairs was the third highest in 6 years. At Smith I., Md., where

Armistead feels his estimates for previous years were low (*e.g.*: 1511 in 1978), a record 3240 pairs was counted this year (HTA,CDC, EMW). Ring-billed Gull is normally very scarce in the lower Bay in summer but in the upper part it was common in 1980 with 2000 summering in Baltimore (RFR), 700 June 12 and 500 July 9 at S.P.S.P. (MLH) and 350 in Queen Annes County July 11 (JGR) Williams' survey, which does not include Assateague I., found about 2460 pairs of Laughing Gulls, a rather low total perhaps attributable to uneven coverage of marsh areas, but 5000 pairs were estimated for the Chincoteague area (JHB), and as usual none was found in the Bay (HTA). Single **Franklin's Gulls** were at Hunting Creek, Va., July 7 (DFA,JMA) and, based on plumage, three different birds at S.P.S.P., June 10, July 9 & 10 (all MLH).

A Gull-billed Tern at Deal I. W.M.A., July 3, provided the first Somerset County record (HTA), and 959 were censused on the Va.E.S. in June (BW) comparable to or better than the previous 3 years. Forster's Tern was low in numbers, with 293 pairs on the Bay (CDC,HTA) and only 96 seen on the Va.E.S. (BW). Other totals from the Virginia barrier island survey were all average or better: Com. Tern 5003, Least Tern 795, Royal Tern 7326, Sandwich Tern 34, Caspian Tern 4 and Black Skimmer 6970 (BW,BA). Elsewhere Least Tern fared well with 200 at Craney I., June 27 (HCI), 53 pairs on Barren I., Md., July 5 (C&RP, HTA), 150 pairs on Assateague I., Md., June 17 (MLH), 30 pairs at Piney Pt., St. Mary's Co., Md., June 7 (EJW) and a successful colony at Baltimore (RFR). However, the S.P.S.P. colony was unsuccessful (HW).

For the first time Royal Tern bred on the Bay, where there were at least 101 pairs n of Tangier I., in company with 19 Black Skimmer pairs (second Bay nesting) throughout July (HTA,FRS,JSW *et al.*) plus a single Sandwich Tern July 1, rare this far up the Bay (HTA,CDC). During the period Weske banded 4302 Royal and 22 Sandwich Terns, two of the Royals at the Cedar Is., in coastal Maryland. Locally unusual were Royals at Hunting Creek, Va., July 22 (JMA) and Baltimore July 17 (RB). Weske comments that small Royal colonies established late in the season tend to suffer much egg loss and attrition. For the seventh straight year Caspian Tern bred on the Va.E.S. with a nest on Ship Shoal I., June 29 and July 11 and one on Metomkin I., June 15 (JSW,BW). As usual, summer strays were in several places: Baltimore (RFR), Piney Pt. (EJW), S.P.S.P. (MLH), Hopewell (FRS,JWD), n. of Tangier I. (JWD,FRS), Barren I. (C&RP,HTA) and Little Cobb I. (FRS,JWD)—mostly in June and early July. Four Black Terns were at Chincoteague June 16 (MLH). For the sixth year since 1963 a **White-winged Black Tern** appeared at Chincoteague, this one a "perfect ten" seen July 7-13 (DFA,JMA,HB, RFR,FRS *et al.*). A gray fox on Fisherman I. N.W.R. may have been the reason for the abandonment of the Black Skimmer colony there (RLA).

PARROTS THROUGH SHRIKES—Two Rose-ringed Parakeets were at Hampton,

Va., July 20 where a few have been established for eight years (M&DM). Monk Parakeets nested in Towson, Md., in July (*fide* RFR). Yellow-billed Cuckoo received mixed reviews, two observers feeling it was up in Maryland (RFR,SHD), another that it was down in c. Virginia (FRS). Unexpected were Black-billed Cuckoos at Fairfax July 18 (JWE) and Chincoteague July 24 (JMA). Scott sees the Chuck-will's-widow as increasing on the Virginia piedmont. On the Va.E.S., Com. Nighthawk was found breeding on two barrier islands: Myrtle and Ship Shoal in June (BW,BA). Unusual was a Red-headed Woodpecker on Barren I., July 5 (CP). On June 28 a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen at Cape Charles—Virginia's sixth record (GG, *fide* JSW). Four Willow Flycatchers were at Dyke Marsh in July (JMA), five were at Lynchburg June 7 (MRB *et al.*) and 17 males were found at McKee-Beshers W.M.A., Md., where the planting of autumn olive hedgerows may have aided their increase (PW). Eike witnessed a "black" snake at Fairfax June 5 which captured an E. Wood Pewee in mid-air from the top of his roll-top garage door. Late single Olive-sided Flycatchers were at Frederick, Md., (DHW) and Williamsburg, Va. (BW)—both June 1.

Tree Swallows seem to be increasing slightly in the Region's piedmont (PW) and at Big I., Bedford Co., Va., they occupied two Cliff Swallow nests June 10 when 59 Cliff Swallow nests were found (FRS). Cliff Swallows also seem to be up somewhat with colonies reported elsewhere at Lake Anna (TDW) and Hopewell (CRB) in Virginia. In Maryland at Crofton, Anne Arundel Co., a pair built a nest in a Bank Swallow burrow June 21 (RMP), the second state coastal plain breeding record and a phenomenon previously witnessed in California. In company with hundreds of Fish Crows and Com. Grackles 3000+ Purple Martins roosted in Mt. Vernon, Va., July 28 (JMA). Martins had a good breeding season (MKK). A Brown Creeper was singing at Bellevue, Md., June 7-14 (HTA) where breeding was also suspected in 1976, 1978 and 1979. At Nolan's Ferry, Md., a pair was seen carrying food behind loose bark on a dead tree May 26—if a breeding record it represents one of the few for the state (DHW). Eastern Bluebird was felt to have had a normal breeding season, although the first broods were 7-10 days late (LZ, *fide* RMP). Totally bizarre was a very well seen Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Quantico, Wicomico Co., Md., July 13 (RFR, RB)—a first state summer record. Cedar Waxwing, a rare coastal plain breeder, was represented by a nestling at Williamsburg in mid-July (RBK, *fide* BW) and two adults were at Bellevue June 13 (HTA). A pair of Loggerhead Shrikes was feeding young at L. Anna June 1 (JBB).

WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS—A Prothonotary Warbler was feeding a young Brown-headed Cowbird near Pocomoke City, Md., June 15 (MLH). In Dismal Swamp N.W.R., Meanley found a Swainson's Warbler nest with 3 eggs June 3 and saw a female feeding two large young the next day. On two Breeding Bird Surveys he conducts there, the most abundant species for the past

3 years have been Prothonotary and Hooded warblers. Inexplicable was a **Canada Warbler** in Anne Arundel County, Md., July 12 (PB, *fide* DB). Late was an Am. Redstart at Bellevue June 8 (HTA, EMW). Bobolinks often turn up in strange places in July. One at S.P.S.P., July 10 (MLH, HW) and six in Baltimore County July 19 (RFR) were odd, but another near Taylor's I., Md., was in definite northward migration June 1 (HTA).

Singing ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in Baltimore County June 15 & 29 where there were 2 breeding records last year (*fide* RFR). The limited regional Dickcissel breeding population flourished, with birds noted in very small numbers in Carroll, Frederick, Baltimore and Montgomery counties, Md., (DB, RFR, DHW, RB). Near Hopewell, Va., five males were singing June 1 (FRS *et al.*) and a nest with 4 eggs and one young was discovered June 18 (JMA). House Finches bred in Norfolk (EM), Annapolis (RMP) and elsewhere. Very recently fledged Savannah Sparrows were at Baltimore (date?), establishing the first local breeding record in many years (HK, *fide* RFR). Henslow's Sparrow persists at Elliott I., where six were seen June 21 (TA, *fide* JGR). At Vaughn W.M.A., 13 Sharp-tailed Sparrows June 15 was a fair summer count (MLH). Swamp Sparrow seems to be spreading somewhat as a rare breeder on the upper Bay with reports, mostly in July, at Ellis Bay

W.M.A., Eastern Neck N.W.R., Baltimore, and Anne Arundel County (RFR, RB, WK), where a nest at S.P.S.P. was the first for the county (DB, *fide* WK, RFR, date?).

OBSERVERS—D.F. Abbott, J.M. Abbott, I.W. Ailes, Bill Akers, Terry Allen, R.L. Anderson, T.E. Armour, Maurice Barnhill, J.B. Bazuin, Ruth Beck (RBK), Henry Bielstein, C.R. Blem, Rick Blom, M.R. Boatwright, J.H. Buckalew, M.A. Byrd, Danny Bystrak, Paul Bystrak, S.V. Cardano, W.S. Clark, C.D. Cremeans, S.A. Dawson, John Dennis, J.W. Dillard, S.H. Dyke, J.W. Eike, Wilbur Engle, A.J. Fletcher, Greg Greer, Anne Hallenbeck, D.J. Hallenbeck, Michael Harrison, M.L. Hoffman, H.C. Irving, Hank Kaestner, M.K. Klimkiewicz, Wayne Klockner, Craig Koppie, J.T. Linehan, R.W. Maldeis, Elwood Martin (EMn), Brooke Meanley, Mike Mitchell, Dorothy Mitchell, Emily Moore, R.M. Patterson, Carl Perry, Rachel Perry, Darrell Peterson, Mary Pulley, J.G. Reese, R.F. Ringler, R.A. Rowlett, F.R. Scott, R.J. Tripician, Barry Truitt, D.H. Wallace, M.L. Wass, K.H. Weber, J.S. Weske, Steve Whitcomb, Hal Wierenga, C.P. Wilds, Bill Williams, J.P. Williams, E.J. Willoughby, E.M. Wilson, J.C. Wilson, T.D. Wilson, T.R. Wolfe, Paul Woodward, Lawrence Zeleny.—HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 28 E. Springfield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118.

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

Although June weather was rather typical, July certainly was not—it was one of the hottest and driest on record in this Region. High temperatures in triple figures were commonplace in Georgia and western South Carolina, and it was nearly as scorching elsewhere. Less than an inch of rain fell during July in many places, and this very-hot-very-dry trend continued well into August.

As would be expected in such a hot summer, field work was slack, though Parnell, Fussell, and others continued their excellent studies of coastal nesting birds in North Carolina. A Breeding Bird Foray was held in Currituck and Dare counties of that state in late May and early June, and several exciting discoveries were again made at Jordan Reservoir in eastern Chatham County, North Carolina. Fussell noted that in Carteret County wading birds had a good nesting season but gulls and terns had spotty success, with some colonies damaged by high tides and a storm in June. Otherwise, very little information was received concerning general nesting success of birds in the various sections of the Region, but perhaps no news is good news.

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGAS—Lake Lanier, Ga., hosted a Com. Loon and a Horned Grebe June 22 (JP), the latter species being very rare away from the coast in summer. Notable for inland North Carolina was a report of nesting Pied-billed Grebes: an adult with six young at a Carolina bay near Wagram June 24 (ML). Dave Lee had the usual (rather low) numbers of shearwaters and petrels, including Black-capped, off Oregon Inlet, N.C., in June and July, and two or three White-tailed Tropicbirds were observed during the period by boat captains (*fide* DL). All four of the commoner shearwaters were seen along the Carteret County, N.C., coast in June and July, with the better counts being eight Greaters at Cape Lookout June 26 (SP), 60 Audubon's near Beaufort Inlet July 23 (BP), and 25 Audubon's at



Atlantic Beach July 27 (LC). On the other hand, Fussell found eight dead Greaters along 3 mi of beach July 7 at Shackleford Banks, N.C., an indication of another puzzling die-off of this species. A report of a probable Blue-faced Booby, in ad. plumage, was made 25 mi off New R. Inlet, N.C., July 24 (BP), though the possibility of a Gannet could not be entirely eliminated. Single inland Double-crested Cormorants, all in North Carolina, were noted at Jordan Res., June 29 (BL) and July 11 (BM,MW), at L. Cammack near Burlington July 1-29 (AB), and Roanoke Rapids L., July 13 (ML). A pair of Anhingas at a pond near Fayetteville N.C., June 16 was somewhat n. of the breeding range (MEW,TP), but a female at Catfish L., s.e. Jones County, N.C., July 9 (ML), might have been breeding there or on an adjacent lake.

WADERS—A new and very large heronry (1200 nests) of Cattle Egrets was discovered 15 mi e. of Columbia, S.C., in July (JEC); otherwise, no information was received on inland colonies in the Region. As usual, a few post-breeding Snowy Egrets and Louisiana Herons occurred inland, and both species were noted in July at Dublin, Ga. (TKP), Fayetteville (PJC), and Jordan Res. (BL). A plethora of reports of Yellow-crowned Night Herons was received, perhaps indicating a highly successful breeding season. A nest was discovered along the Neuse R., in extreme e. Durham County, N.C., June 24 (BK), and a young bird was found helpless on the ground near Kinston, N.C., in late July (*vide* JF). Adults with juveniles suggested breeding in the c. Coastal Plain of North Carolina near Williamston (TH) and at two sites near Clarkton (ML). Also, at least three immatures were seen at each of 4 Piedmont locales: Atlanta, Ga. (*vide* TM), Winston-Salem, N.C. (RS,HS), Jordan Res. (BL,AB), and Pendleton, S.C. (HL). The foray into Currituck County tallied 35 Least Bitterns at three sites May 30 (ML *et al.*), an excellent count, and 12 Wood Storks were noted July 13 at their usual post-breeding location at Sunset Beach, N.C. (AB,BL), the northernmost spot on the Atlantic Coast where these birds occur regularly. Ibises were newsworthy this summer at Jordan Res.: as many as four Glossies July 15-Aug. (BL,BW) and 80-100 Whites in late July (BL *et al.*). A tally of 25 Whites seen in flight June 29 in e. Guilford County, N.C. (AB) was also notable. An Am. Flamingo was near Ocracoke, N.C., June 10 (RD,BN), and a bird, perhaps the same, was seen on three occasions in July in e. Carteret Co. (KV,JT,RSt).

WATERFOWL—A report of nesting **Blue-winged Teal** near Fairplay, Anderson Co., S.C., this summer (*vide* SM) was the first for an inland site in the Region. As usual, a handful of waterfowl lingered far s. of their normal breeding ranges, although one must suspect that many were sick or injured. A ♂ Pintail, with a probable female, was at Bodie I., N.C., in early July (CS), and another was near Southport, N.C., July 10 (JHC *et al.*). A pair of Redheads was of interest at Davis, N.C., June 22 (JF), and an injured White-winged Scoter was seen on the same date at Kiawah I., S.C. (SC,GM). Single Ring-

necked Ducks were observed in July at both L. Cammack (AB) and Beaverdam Res. (RJH) in c. North Carolina.

HAWKS—Cely reported that 2 nests of Swallow-tailed Kites were found in May in the Francis Marion N.F., S.C., but both nests failed. This forest harbors nearly the entire breeding population in the Region, with perhaps a dozen pairs inhabiting it. A considerable number of ad. Mississippi Kites were again seen in e. Halifax County, N.C., this summer, where breeding may well be taking place; the peak count was 14 on June 13 (ER). A Sharp-shinned Hawk was rare July 6 near Henderson, N.C. (MT), and Cooper's Hawks were reported to be holding their own in the Atlanta area (*vide* TM). Broad-winged Hawks are rare in summer in the Region's Coastal Plain, occurring mainly along the extreme w. edge. Individuals in the coastal zone were surprising near Shallotte, N.C., June 22 (RD) and between Swansboro and Jacksonville, N.C., July 29 and 31 (LC). An ad. and a juv. Broad-winged provided a first positive breeding record for Dublin, Ga., July 21 (TKP), and other adults were of interest in North Carolina this season at Fayetteville (PJC), Maxton (JHC), and Arcola (ML, JM). An active Bald Eagle nest at Colington, N.C., on the Outer Banks, this spring (*vide* LP) caused quite a stir, as the state had gone at least 5 years without a single active nest. An eagle nest reported at Orton Plantation, s. of Wilmington, in 1976 (AB 30:943) was never corroborated by wildlife officials or experienced birders and was presumably that of an Osprey, which abounds in the Orton area. Strange at it may seem, Marsh Hawks outnumbered Bald Eagles in summer in that state, with a few probable breeding pairs at Cedar Island and in Dare County; presumed non-breeding Marsh Hawks were unusual at Jordan Res., July 4 (JPay) and July 11 (BW,MW). The most significant Am. Kestrel reports were of a pair apparently on territory in Francis Marion forest May 4 (PN *et al.*) and an individual seen in downtown Durham, N.C., July 2 (JC).

CRANES THROUGH RAILS—An ad. **Sandhill Crane** at Jordan Res., July 8-10 (BL *et al.*) appeared to provide a first record for the North Carolina Piedmont. This individual, along with a most unusual flock of 18 near Americus, Ga., July 15 (TS), were probably post-breeders from Florida or Okefenokee Swamp Ga., as n. migrants do not reach the Region until early November. The only noteworthy rail sightings came from the marshes in the bed of Jordan Res., which is still not yet a lake. A King Rail was detected calling on territory on several occasions in May and June, and four (juveniles?) were heard giving another type of call there July 4 (BL *et al.*). Lewis saw a very early Sora at Jordan July 28, and most fortuitously flushed a Black Rail June 3. He also had a Black calling in response to a tape June 10; this is the second consecutive summer that the species has been detected there.

PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS—Fussell *et al.* tallied ten+ territorial pairs of Piping Plovers between Portsmouth I. and Beaufort Inlet, N.C., this summer, and a pair on ter-

ritory, engaging in the broken wing display, was s. of the breeding range at Sunset Beach, N.C., June 16 (ER). A good post-breeding count of Wilson's Plovers was the 200 noted in Beaufort Inlet Aug. 2 (BP), and a Long-billed Curlew was at Ocracoke, N.C., July 14 (RD,BN,JFP). Jordan Res. was, as usual, thoroughly covered by an avid group of Chapel Hill birders; highlights (all BL *et al.*) included two Com. Snipes June 10, a Willet July 28, a Greater Yellowlegs June 10, a Dunlin in breeding plumage June 29 and July 2, and up to three Stilt Sandpipers July 21 to August. One of the very few Regional records of **Curlew Sandpiper** away from the Outer Banks was furnished by an individual in breeding plumage near Southport, N.C., July 10 (JHC,JFP,RD,BN *et al.*), and a Marbled Godwit near Atlantic Beach June 19 (JF) was notable for that month. Wilson's Phalaropes are quite unusual in mid-summer, so of interest were singles on Ocracoke I., N.C., June 11 (RD) and near Raleigh, N.C., July 22 (WI). More unusual in mid-summer was a dark phase Pomarine Jaeger, with a full tail, at Shackleford Banks July 7 (JF). The only noteworthy tern reports concerned very early migrants: a Caspian found dead at Beaverdam Res., near Raleigh July 19 (RJH), and a Black at Jordan Res., June 20 (BL).

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH FLY-CATCHERS—Chuck-will's-widows are rather scarce in the c. Piedmont of North Carolina; thus, two heard in e. Guilford County, June 10 (AB) and three heard in neighboring Alamance County June 18 (AB) were notable. A Whip-poor-will was rare near Hollonville, Ga., just w. of Griffin, in mid-June (HG,LB). For the third consecutive summer a **Western Kingbird** was detected in the Region, this one being at the n. end of Folly Beach, S.C., June 14 (DF,GC). Most rarities reported in this Region, or in any region for that matter, are seen by experienced observers, as one would expect. So why is it that Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in the Region always seem to elude the experts? This season's Scissor-tailed was noted in s.w. Sumter County, S.C., July 20 (TV, *vide* KS), by an observer unfamiliar to me! Ramona Snively had a number of significant sightings of Willow Flycatchers in North Carolina's n.w. Piedmont. She noted a singing bird at Roaring River June 8, another singing at High Point June 10, still another singing at the sewage treatment plant in Winston-Salem June 26, and most importantly, an active nest at Washington Pk., in the latter city, under observation June 11-July 8. One was rare June 26 at Duluth, Ga., where the species has occurred previously in summer (JV).

LARKS THROUGH VIREOS—Horned Larks are rare breeders along the w. edge of the Coastal Plain; thus, a pair seen on several occasions through July 21 near Mayesville, S.C. (ED) were noteworthy, and one was heard singing in w. Robeson County, N.C., June 19 (JHC). The Region's only Bank Swallow colony, at Roaring R., N.C., was checked June 8 (RS); erosion had destroyed some of the nesting sites, but the colony was still thriving. Cliff Swallows had a good summer at Clemson; in recent seasons only one or two pairs bred there, but at least 9 active nests

were counted on the SC 93 bridge at L. Hartwell in June (HL). Cliffs seen at 2 sites in June near Burlington, N.C., indicated breeding there (AB), and Lynch counted 71 nests at well-established sites at L. Gaston, N.C., this summer. When Jordan Res. becomes an honest-to-goodness lake in a year or so, we might expect to see Cliffs nesting there. Lewis noted a few Fish Crows in June and early July in Chapel Hill, where breeding has not yet been detected, and the same can be said for Clemson (HL). The inland distribution and foraging habits of this species in the Region, at all seasons, is puzzling and deserves considerable study. House Wrens were reported in increased numbers as breeders at Atlanta (TM), with young out of the nest at nearby Stone Mountain Apr. 27 (PF); and 36+ Long-billed Marsh Wrens were tallied in the freshwater marshes in n.e. Currituck County, May 30 (ML,EP *et al.*), indicating a sizable breeding population there. Along the edge of its nesting range near Littleton, N.C., a singing Solitary Vireo was seen in open shortleaf pines June 8 (ML).

WARBLERS—A singing ♂ Black-and-white Warbler, apparently on territory, was at Kitty Hawk, N.C., May 31 (HL,ML,EP); this appears to be the first breeding-season record for the immediate coast. Rare for Winston-Salem was a Prothonotary Warbler nest, with three fledglings, found July 6 (RS,HS). A singing Swainson's Warbler was noted 30 mi s. of Atlanta June 22 (PF,TM), a new site for the species, although it occurs sparingly in Georgia's Piedmont in summer. Worm-eating Warblers were found at three North Carolina localities this season, but in each case they had been noted at the same site in 1979—Alamance County, May 31 (AB), w. Gates County June 12 (ML), and Winston-Salem July 4 (KH). A very early ♂ Blue-winged Warbler was seen at Poinsett S.P., Sumter Co., S.C., July 18 (BG, *vide* KS), and five singing Cerulean Warblers were noted along the Roanoke R. near Scotland Neck, N.C., June 15 (ML *et al.*). These Ceruleans are part of a disjunct population that inhabits the mature, open hardwoods along the river from Halifax to Williamston. An active Kentucky Warbler nest found near Savannah, Ga., May 19 (JR), apparently a first for a coastal county in that state, extends the known breeding range s.e. by approximately 30 mi. A ♂ Am. Redstart was rare along the Santee R., near Alvin, S.C., June 2 (DF), at the presumed s. limit of breeding in that state.

ORIOLES THROUGH SPARROWS—A ♀ N. Oriole near Winston-Salem June 13 (PC,BaP,RS) and a male near L. Cammack in the Burlington area June 22 (AB) were of interest and might have been breeders, but one at Columbus, Ga., July 2 (BT) must have been a very early migrant or a summer wanderer. Boat-tailed Grackles are closely tied to salt or brackish water in the Region, so it seemed odd that 100+ were found in the vicinity of the freshwater marshes of n.e. Currituck County May 30, with a flightless juvenile at Bells I., on the same date (ML *et al.*). Scarlet Tanagers are rare in summer in the c. Piedmont of Georgia; thus, noteworthy was a pair near Cumming in June (JP) and

one near Woodstock July 20 (DP). In North Carolina, Scarlets nest throughout the Piedmont and well into the n. Coastal Plain, with significant finds this summer being six singing males at 3 sites in Gates County in June and July (ML,HL,TH), and another singing male outside the known range at Southern Shores, just n. of Kitty Hawk, May 31 (HL). A ♂ **Black-headed Grosbeak** consuming sunflower seeds at a Greenville, S.C., feeder July 14-21 furnished a first summer record for the Region (*vide* PW). Painted Buntings nested 6 mi e. of Sumter this season, with two males, a female, and several juveniles seen coming to a feeder (*vide* ED). The first reported breeding of **Dickcissels** in North Carolina since 1964 was established at Jordan Res. In the Farrington vicinity of the lakebed, Lewis noted two territorial males June 20, and others saw these birds through July 4. Roth discovered another site a few mi s. of the Farrington location June 22 by finding an ad. pair, and several birders observed as many as four juveniles there through July 4. Almost as notable was a ♂ Dickcissel near Perry, Ga., in late May (TS), accompanied by a female June 6 (MO). Unfortunately, there was no subsequent information on whether a nesting attempt was made. No season goes by without a significant Regional record for the House Finch, although summer 1980 seemed quiet in comparison with previous ones. A positive nesting occurred at Durham, N.C., in mid-July (CH,MP), and 15 all summer at a feeder in Atlanta, where breeding has already been established, was an excellent count (BRa, *vide* TM). Could three singing Grasshopper Sparrows seen at the New Hanover Co. airport just n. of Wilmington, N.C., July 28 (RD) actually be nesting, only 8 mi from the Atlantic Ocean? Bachman's Sparrows have nearly disappeared as breeders from the Piedmont; thus a good find was two singing birds noted on a Breeding Bird Survey

30 mi s. of Atlanta June 22 (TM,PF). Five Song Sparrows, including three singing males, at Portsmouth, N.C., June 3, were one island to the s. of the known breeding range of the Atlantic race (JF). Surprisingly, two or three singing males, presumably of the Atlantic race, were found May 30 in a residential area of Bells I., in Currituck County (ML); this race was presumed to occur in summer only along the outer islands of North Carolina.

CORRIGENDUM—The Golden Eagle near Burlington, N.C., reported in *AB* 34:151, was actually seen Oct. 24, and not in September.

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FLORIDA REGION

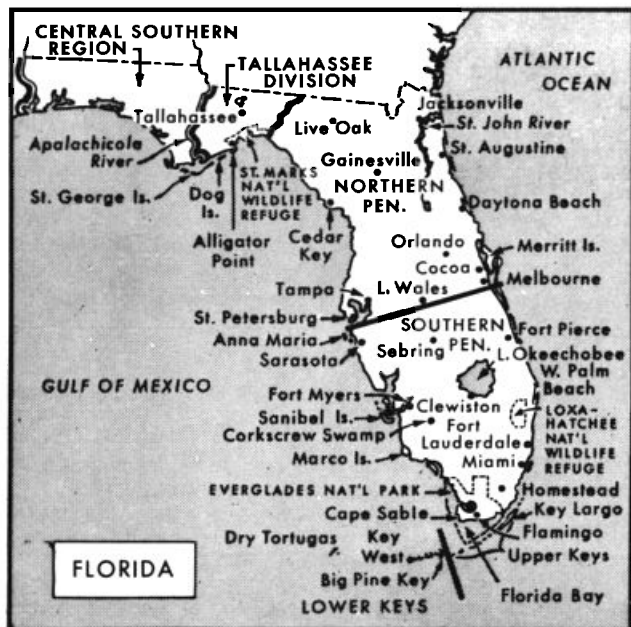
/John B. Edscorn

Like much of North America, Florida endured record heat in the summer of 1980. To some extent Nature suppressed excessive thermometer readings on the peninsula, but in our high humidity, 100°F seemed unreasonable. That mark was broken for the first time at the writer's central Florida location, but highs went well above it in north Florida and were lowest in subtropical south Florida. This is no paradox; the surrounding sea, the summer tradewind and rainy season more effectively curb temperature extremes in the south. Upstate climate in Florida (inland, especially) is more like that of the hotter, continental Deep South.

July arrivals of "fall" migrants suggested that some nesting may have been forsaken in the northern heat, and this may also have been true of second-nesting in Florida. Of many birds at our farm home, only an indefatigable wren pair was seen with young (one

throughout the period. Inexplicably, northern birds actually summered in our state. Even the prize of this enigmatic season, a tiny Cuban finch, raised questions which may always irk some observers.

LOONS, GREBES—A late Com. Loon in mixed plumage was seen on the Gulf off the Steinhatchee R. mouth June 2 (HWK), and one in full breeding plumage was on the lake of a huge apartment complex s. of Jacksonville (hereafter "Jax") June 11-12 (SPP, VM, PCP). While loons are exceptional finds in summer here, stragglers may be somewhere along our vast coastline every year in June. Later dates are very rare, however. Also late at Steinhatchee was a June 8 Horned Grebe in breeding plumage (JC). Sixteen Pied-billed Grebes on the flooded muck fields of Duda Farm near Belle Glade (hereafter "Duda's") July 13 (PWS, BH) increased mightily to 62 there by July 27 (PWS, GSH, RT), illustrating nesting success even in very hot weather



SHEARWATERS—On the Gulf just 3 mi off Horseshoe Beach July 26, Lovett Williams ran a boat beside a flying Greater Shearwater “within 25 ft for about a minute,” getting a good look at a species rarely seen in those waters. There was an Audubon’s Shearwater die-off of unknown extent on the e. coast (where one or more pelagic species seem to be stricken every summer). At Patrick A.F.B. alone, four were picked up July 21-22 (Wayne Hoffman, U. of S. Fla.), and another was mentioned a few mi away at Sebastian Inlet.

PETRELS—Well inland at Lakeland July 16 Warren Hall was driving beside L. Parker, had his curiosity aroused, and went back to closely observe a storm-petrel resting motionlessly—“head sagging; very tired or sick”—just 20 ft from shore! Storm-Petrel details were unquestionable, but unfortunately specific identification was not possible (news was delayed, and the bird vanished overnight—where alligators are seen). Wilson’s is the likeliest species, but, rather astonishingly, Lakeland had a previous storm-petrel (June 5, 1972; a summer in which many oceanic birds died on the E. Coast), and that moribund bird proved to be a Leach’s.

PELECANIFORMES—Non-breeding White Pelicans seem to be somewhere in Florida every summer (up to 1000 have summered even at inland Lakeland in recent history), but this season produced almost no reports. Two Brown Boobies provided a rare sighting 6 mi off Mayport June 27, but they were eclipsed by a well-described Masked Booby 6 mi farther out (CWH, PB)! Problematical to categorize was a most unseasonal Gannet, perhaps flightless, seen ashore and afloat July 29 (Sam Cole) at St. George I. (hereafter, St.G.I.).

WADING BIRDS—For years, Regional Editor John C. Ogden presented wader nesting summaries here. Those surveys, involving much field work, flying, and record-

keeping by John, provided vital insights which we hope can be resumed when he returns to Florida.

Twenty years after the introduction of Scarlet Ibis eggs, raised by White Ibises in Greynolds Park, Miami, we see evidence that the confused (imprinted?) progeny have been mating with White Ibises ever since. These ibises are very closely related, so it is to be hoped that the Whooping Cranes being raised by Sandhill Cranes (an experiment which may eventually be extended to produce nonmigratory Whoopers in Florida) are distant enough kin

not to produce such confusion. A Scarlet X White Ibis was far n. at Zellwood July 25 (BP).

WATERFOWL—Introduced (and thus non-migratory) Canada Geese persist near Tallahassee (hereafter, Talla.); Menk saw a pair with five immatures in a new nest area there June 26. How does one present a wild, free-flying West Indian Whistling Duck—along the Gold Coast, at that, where all manner of exotics routinely escape? This is a “nearby foreign” species able to fly over to Florida in two hours but one which, alas, is already here in collections from which escapes seem inevitable. Not to use boldface type for such a long-hoped-for bird is sad, but Sykes so treated it, we concur, and here it is...Amid 460 Fulvous Whistling Ducks with young at Duda’s July 27 (a decrease from 830 there July 13; PWS, BH) there was also a West Indian and two Black-bellied Whistling Ducks (PWS, GSH, RT)! For yet another summer Black-bellieds were with Fulvous kin at Zellwood (July 20, BD, HD, KD; July 27, GB, DF). Fulvous, some of which may originally have come here on their own (we see flocks fly in to both coasts), have long been breeding in Florida and can be locally numerous, as they have reportedly also become in Cuba. They come and go unpredictably but this is an odd species with a very odd range scattered about the globe. Black-bellieds have not appreciably increased. West Indians may never establish themselves in the wild here (at least, they have not after living nearby for ages), but we have seen them in the Cayman Is., where very wary, in brackish swamps much like those in our Keys and Ten Thousand Is.

A Blue-winged Teal on the Pinellas County Bayway June 7 (B. Durham *et al.*) was late, while 23 at Duda’s July 13 (PWS, BH) and “50” at Zellwood July 20 (PJF, BC, CG) presumably be early, returning from the north. Nesting in Florida is extremely rare, and was not suspected in these reports. Noteworthy in the Talla. Division were: the White-winged Scoter off Alligator Pt. July 25

(RLC, BC) and a ♂ Ruddy Duck on L. Ella, May 5-July 12 (GEM).

RAPTORS—Hoping to intercept the big flight of Swallow-tailed Kites around L. Okeechobee (a magnificent mid-summer avian spectacle which can involve coalescences in the hundreds), we searched July 14 from Big Cypress Indian Reservation all the way up to Brighton, but saw only nine. This low number was typical of other reports, too. Only one observer saw a semblance of migration *en masse*: 25 in a tightly cohesive flock w. of Ochopee July 9 (DR).

A Mississippi Kite well-described at s. Jax July 30 was e. of its usual range (JPC). Everglade Kites continued holding sway in a favored area along U.S. 41 near “Shark Valley” (m.ob.); we have put four groups within 30 ft of kites there, with all 50 people still ensconced in the bus! Of interest were: a very late Sharp-shinned Hawk in the Myakka Valley June 12 (DHM, GCM), a Cooper’s Hawk near Talla., July 2 (JMS) and a white-phase Short-tailed Hawk near Ochopee July 9 (DR). Miniscule and ever-dwindling summer Am. Kestrel reports continue to presage doom for breeders in c. & s. Florida.

COOTS, PLOVERS—American Coots again had young in Duval County, where only last year first nesting was discovered (JPC), but at Duda’s in w. Palm Beach County this species, with young, peaked at 87 (July 13; PWS, BH). Reduced now to near-extinction on our c. Gulf coast, two remnant Snowy Plover pairs nested at Casey Key, but only one chick was ever seen (AS, SS). Such results auger sadly for our future. Virtually all beaches not built on are overrun with people, pets, motorcycles, etc.—even so-called “endangered lands,” ostensibly preserved. Snowy Plovers will be extirpated unless we protect them.

SHOREBIRDS—We come next to the entertainment of guessing which way the shorebirds are migrating (or are they sometimes summering?) in the limbo period around July 1. That date arbitrarily differentiates between very late spring and early fall migrants. But some hopelessly late “wrong-way Corrigans” flying N then are meeting early southbound kin head-on in the night sky!—which is amusing if you picture that scene in a lighter vein and make up anthropomorphic bird talk: a mother-lode of new jokes.

The season’s earliest Solitary Sandpiper was near Talla., July 7 (GEM), and latest/earliest Greater Yellowlegs were near Ft. Myers June 27 (HMS) and July 6 (DR). A Dunlin at Alligator Pt., June 30 (Todd Engstrom) was thought to be Florida’s latest-ever in breeding plumage. Early arrivals seemed to characterize reports of all the other usual shorebird species.

TERNs—Best Gull-billed Tern counts came from Duda’s July 13 (ten; PWS, BH) and Zellwood July 20 (2-3; PJF, BC, CG). Since no nesting is known on our coast, June 15 was an interesting date for 25 breeding-plumaged Com. Terns to be resting on the water near Dog I. (HWK). As usual, some Least Tern colonies failed (no success known at Ward’s Bank; JLW), some did fairly well

(53 nests, 17 chicks banded by June 13 at Midnight Pass; AS, SS) and others continued to achieve success by nesting on gravel rooftops in many areas. The species survives even inland (several reports), and is not nearly as threatened as some which cannot adapt as well.

On a spoil-island in Hillsborough Bay two or more pairs of Sandwich Terns nested—a first for the lower W. Coast since the early 1900s (James Rodgers)! Two Black Terns over Ft. Myers Beach July 3 (DR) were presumably southbound very early, but this is another species which meets itself coming and going.

DOVES, CUCKOOS—Introduced White-winged Doves are thriving in s.e. Florida; possibly in a new nest area were two, singing, in c. Palm Beach County June 24 (HMS). Presumably moving S early (although some are still going N in June), single Yellow-billed Cuckoos hit the WCTV tower July 14 & 28 (RLC). The Florida Region's latest-ever Black-billed Cuckoo was reported June 7 near St. Petersburg (Larry Carpenter *et al.*).

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS—Chimney Swifts nest well s. in Florida, but unless taking a brief sojourn in migration, three of these birds on Hypoluxo I., July 26 (PWS, BH), and again July 30 (Paul Springer) might indicate a new nest area nearby. Intriguing was a report of what was termed a breeding "population" of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds just w. of Copeland, far s. in Florida (Collier County) June 15. Laymond Hardy, who reported these, saw 10-11 on just two bushes there "less than three weeks earlier," and asked local people to try to find a nest. Even better would be to prove that young are raised, something this writer has never been able to establish even in c. Florida. We always seem to see only females in nesting season (males having apparently moved on north), and we have wondered if these birds lay fertile eggs? We would be interested to know of any *successful* nesting on the Florida peninsula. Not eggs, but nestlings.

SWALLOWS—The first Bank Swallow was at Talla., July 24 (GEM), but three days later 25 were at Duda's (PWS, GSH, RT). Far, far from contiguous range, Cliff Swallows continue to nest at their inexplicably disjunct colony near Port Mayaca on the e. side of L. Okeechobee, where 2 active nests were seen June 27 (PWS). June Barn Swallows elicit curiosity now, what with increasing colonization, particularly near the coast; but one at Bayport June 3 acted like one of the usual June stragglers (HMS). Not as clear was the status of two, June 6, in Leon County, where nesting is anticipated (GEM). Under a Duval County Intercoastal Waterway bridge, where Barn Swallows have previously nested, at least five adults and 2 occupied nests were still being seen as late as July 27 (SAG). However, observers have been seeing a few southbound Barn Swallows well before this date, and these may be coming out of the spreading southerly range.

Post-nesting assemblages of Purple Martins began as early as May (these, our first birds of spring, arrive as early as January, so young are already raised by summer), and

such aggregations can become very large. At traditional June-to-August communal roosts this season were: 2500+ in downtown Jacksonville, which a newspaper reported (PCP), and 5000 in one banyan tree in a Ft. Meyers Beach downtown park (Keith Carstens). Bobby Crawford saw great numbers—perhaps 3000 in one of the flocks—on Alligator Pt., July 26-27. A truly enormous number swelled a roost of many years in the Homeland Industries phosphate-mining plant near Bartow. Employee Carl Hancock says that some are present in all "martin months," but big numbers build up in June, peak in July and continue declining in August. Not until dusk does the sky-filling cloud of birds arrive to roost. The peak this year was "conservatively guessed" at 20,000 July 18 (CH, CG)!

CATBIRDS, THRUSHES—A Gray Catbird singing June 22 at Olustee Battlefield revealed likely nesting (CWH), and solid proof, a fledgling, was included in a count of 3-4 at a locally new Leon County nest site July 6 (GEM). It was quite a summer for thrush records. Stevenson saw two Am. Robins June 17 in Ocala ("where reported breeding for years"), and also two at a repeat site in Tampa's southernmost nesting area June 27 (Ed Mack *et al.*). Summer Wood Thrushes were well reported, especially in Duval and Alachua counties near their s. range limit (*vide* PCP, RWR). June 7 was late for a *Catharus* thrush, "not a Veery," at Eastpoint (JMS). Remarkable at Talla., "in woods similar to those where it breeds in North Carolina," was a non-singing but normal-acting Veery—from at least June 22-July 3 (Mrs. Lovett Williams, Sr., *vide* HMS)! Eastern Bluebirds nested for the second year just s. of Ft. Pierce, where none had been seen for about 10 years previously (H&BD). To encourage such results in Polk County, Carl Hancock is building a bluebird trail.

GNATCATCHERS, WARBLERS—A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher June 26 revealed that this species persists at its southmost and isolated nesting area off the "Loop Rd.," s. of U.S. 41, Collier Co. (HMS). Among the earliest "Fall" migrants were two Black-and-white Warblers July 13 at San Felasco State Preserve, Gainesville (AAS). Near its known southern limit June 22 was a Swainson's Warbler at Manatee Springs on the lower Suwannee R. (CWH). If not a *very* late straggler (unlikely for this early spring migrant), a singing N. Parula June 7 on St. G.I., gave a first indication of summering there (JMS). Still at Winter Haven June 1-2 was a singing Cape May Warbler (PJF). Apparently summering, a local first, was a Yellow-throated Warbler which sang all spring and until at least June 7 on St. G.I. (JMS). Locally earliest records were set for at least five warbler species at Saddle Creek Pk., near Lakeland, a "hot spot" for fall birding which has been covered for many years. Included on July 26 were Yellow-throated and a Louisiana Waterthrush (PJF), and the next day, Prairie, Hooded and Am. Redstart (PJF, BC, CG). Remarkably, an Am. Redstart sang all of June and July in W. Palm Beach (CHP)!

GRACKLES THROUGH COWBIRDS—

Menk reported that Boat-tailed Grackles "seem fairly established in n. Leon County since last summer; up to 15 seen." A nest with young Orchard Orioles on the s. side of Orange L., June 18, "may be the most southerly" (nest actually seen), although Stevenson once collected a juvenile in n. Citrus County (HMS). Long-established Spot-breasted Orioles mysteriously declined in s.e. Florida, and still are "relatively low" (PWS). Brown-headed Cowbirds continue their invasion. A young bird was being fed by a ♀ towhee well s. at Gainesville July 15 (JHH, AC), and 13 others were seen at another location there July 13 (BPM). Julie Cocks and Peggy Powell cited 3 Jax locations in June, and Menk counted up to 700 post-nesting birds near Talla.,—continuing woe for parasitized birds!

FRINGILLIDAE—The southernmost reported summer Blue Grosbeak was intermittently heard singing May 16-June 16 n w of Lakeland, but whether it had a mate could never be ascertained (JBE). Well s. was a singing Indigo Bunting at Zellwood July 20 (PF, BC, CG). The best bird of the season was a Cuban **Melodious Grassquit** seen at Key West June 1-12. Birders travelled over 1000 mi to list it, but few outside of local residents got to see it (wore got out too late). Two lucky ones, the Dowlings, submitted complete details, and Thurlow Weed photographed it. Now we hear that some (the ones who missed?) say it was brought over by Cuban refugees, and can't be "counted." It is possible, of course, but unless proven. ? A Vesper Sparrow summered at Gainesville, May through July (LW).

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ONTARIO REGION / Clive E. Goodwin

Breeding was successful in spite of mixed summer weather. It was cool, abnormally wet in the south and abnormally dry in the north, with some violent extremes: even Kettle Point, in Ontario's "banana belt", had snow June 9. Further north, things were worse. At Pimisi Bay, Louise de K. Lawrence dubbed June 8-17 "winter in June", with morning frost, two days of snow flurries, one of freezing rain, and one of hail. In spite of it all, good breeding success was reported: for example, Mrs. Lawrence's pair of Eastern Phoebe brought off a brood of five during this time, with a nesting period of only 19 days.

The strange weather did influence movements. Migration continued well into June, and at Pimisi Bay following the cold snap "suddenly, the empty territories became settled and gave the impression of a more densely populated study area than in several of the past years" (LdeKL). Return migration (if that is what it was) also began early, with shorebirds moving in numbers before the end of June.

LOONS, GREBES, CORMORANTS—The usual summering loons on the Lower Great Lakes included a Red-throated at Pickering July 26 (JAK). Inland, a Common was at Cambridge June 14 (MS, EH, ML), and a pair with young at Port Perry July 29, probably marked the southernmost breeding station in the Province (RT). The Lower Lakes had scattered grebes as well, but 13 Red-neckeds at Port Credit June 12, reduced to two by July 9 (BW), represented an unusual number at an old summering station for this species. An Eared Grebe was at Warton June 3 (JWJ), and a Horned Grebe at Ottawa June 7 was also noteworthy (BMD). Encouraging reports of Double-crested Cormorants continued, as there were 80 nests (compared to 38 in 1979) on Pigeon I., with a count of 253 adults plus young July 18 (RDW), 85 nests on Big Chicken I., June 12 (PAW), and 26 birds on Peter's Rock near Cobourg June 2-28 (ERM).

HERONS—Much interesting information on Great Blue Herons was received. The Long Point Bird Observatory heron survey had records of 428 "active" heronries—those in use since 1974 and not known to be extinct—including 10 with over 100 nests. These contained 1835 nests out of 2838 reported so far this year. Colony size s. of the Laurentian Shield averages larger—49 nests—than those on the Shield, with 18 nests average (*vide* DH). In future years this important survey can be expected to provide valuable information on the trends in our heron numbers. Persons wishing to help should contact the Observatory. Other reports suggest that this species is strengthening its population: a new heronry at Maryhill, Waterloo, had 40+ nests Apr. 9 (MS); there were 150 nests on E. Sister I., June 12 (PAW) and in Simcoe County the Nottawasaga I. and Minesing heronries had record populations with 43 and 127 nests respectively, as compared to

previous highs of 41 and 82 (CJM, DS). Dave Hussell noted that underestimation of heronry size is usual if the nests are counted from the outside; however, when an interior census is undertaken, the timing of the visits into the colony must be carefully selected.

The status of other herons seemed less secure, although the Black-crowned Night Heron appeared to be doing well. Two nests were located off Manitoulin I., and at least one on the Island itself (CW), a new development, even though the nests were deserted by June 30; a new colony of 8 nests was found on Toronto's E. Headland (JAK); and 60 nests, on Pigeon I., showed no trace of egg-shell thinning or dead young (RDW). There were also an estimated 200 nests on both E. Sister and Pelee Is., June 12 (PAW), and the Nottawasaga I. heronry, with 136 nests June 7, maintained its level of the last two years (CJM). On the other hand the only numbers of Am. Bitterns reported were from Bradley's Marsh, L. St. Clair (hereafter, B.M.) with 40 in July (MF), and no one reported any Least Bitterns at all. Both Green Herons and Great Egrets were numerous at B.M. with 20 pairs and 74 birds respectively (MF); both species also wandered N, the Green to Naughton June 8 (GB) and an egret to Meaford June 15 (JCC). Cattle Egrets were seen at Northville June 18 (AR, DM, JM) and Ottawa June 7 (BMD), and a Glossy Ibis appeared at Bright's Grove June 23 (DR, AR).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS—There was the usual assortment of summer stragglers along the Lower Great Lakes, with some more noteworthy occurrences elsewhere. These included a Whistling Swan at Stratford July 16 (RJM, *vide* MPD), Snow Goose at Laurel Reservoir June 22 (MS), Canvasback at Gauley Bay July 17 (JWJ), two ♂ Ruddy Ducks on Wawa sewage lagoons June 2 (CEG) and three Com. Mergansers on the Grand R., near Cambridge in June (CAC, BE). Canada Geese continued to expand their southern breeding range N and E: 2 or 3 nests were on Amherst I. (RDW), two pairs bred successfully at Tiny Marsh (CJM, EAM), there was a pair with two young at Port Perry July 29 (RT), and the species also staged some unaccountable movements during June—for example, four were at Kiosk June 18 (PN). Brant movement continued well into June, but six birds at Toronto June 11 (BW) and one at Ottawa June 9-15 (BMD) were late. The most unusual duck reports were of a Eur. Com. Teal at Warton June 5 (unfortunately lacking full details) and the Great Lakes' first summering Harlequin Duck at Pickering throughout (*vide* AD, PB). The rest of the waterfowl story is of high numbers and



successful nestings, as ducks continue to exploit the habitat provided by sewage ponds, and generally to expand their ranges in the Province. High summer concentrations included 600 Mallards at Port Hope in June (ERM), and 20 Green-winged Teal and 40 Am. Wigeon at B.M. in late June and early July (MF). Black Ducks nested at Rondeau and Bright's Grove (PAW, DR, AR), pairs of Green-winged Teal were seen at Algonquin June 26 (JMo), Port Hope (RJ) and Kettle Pt. (AR), and a brood of Pintail and two of Am. Wigeons were recorded in the Whitby area (DRc, NLeV). Hooded Merganser nestings occurred at Sioux Narrows (GB), Backus Woods, Port Rowan (DH), Algonquin P.P. (JMo *et al.*) and Ottawa (BMD). Finally, a Red-breasted Merganser with 12 young was off Hopkin's Bay July 28 (JWJ).

VULTURES, HAWKS—One of the most unwelcome features of the season was forest fire on an unprecedented scale in the tinder-dry n.w. About a week after its occurrence in late May, we passed through the area where the enormous Kenora fire had crossed the Trans-Canada Highway. Raptors are usually thinly scattered along the n. highways, but the burn zone yielded two Turkey Vultures, two Red-tailed Hawks, a Broad-winged Hawk, a Marsh Hawk and unusual numbers of Com. Ravens. Also noteworthy was the unusual amount of song—for example, an Ovenbird singing vigorously from a blackened hillside where even the soil was charred to ash. A Goshawk nest was found at Cameron L. (JWJ) and the Pinery P.P. had two successful Cooper's Hawks nests, with at least three young fledged (DM, JM). Few Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen, but the species is particularly elusive in the breeding season, and I know of no evidence to justify an "Endangered" listing in Ontario. Only 2 nests of Red-shouldered Hawks were located in the Kitchener-Waterloo area and no others were reported, but there were scattered reports of birds seen. The summer sightings gave some suggestion of recovery, but there was nothing to imply the existence of any large undisturb-

ed populations. The species is generally scarce towards the edges of its range, and observers are cautioned against jumping to conclusions based on the seemingly large numbers that can be observed during passage at favoured hawk lookouts. No reliable information exists on the comparable numbers at these areas in former years, and as previously pointed out in this account (AB 31:994) the totals still imply only a very sparse population across the species' range.

Two Rough-legged Hawks moving at Pimisi Bay June 1 were exceptionally late (LdeKL), and there was hawk movement in the s.w. until June 5, when an Osprey was one of the birds seen in a generally NW movement at Rondeau (PAW). Four Bald Eagle nests in the Atikokan area contained nine young (SP): this is one part of the Province where the species seems to have consistently held its own.

GROUSE, RAILS—Bobwhite were scarce in the s.w., except for 11 on the Lambton B.B.S. (DR), but Ring-necked Pheasants occurred in good numbers there (*vide* AHK). A Sora, rare in the Algonquin area, was seen there June 20 (JMo, AM, GH).

SHOREBIRDS—At one time, Ontario observers had a rule of thumb that shorebirds before June 20 were going N, and those after June 30 were returning, and birds were expected to have the consideration not to clutter up the 10 days between. Well, they did—and presumably always have—and only two days this year (June 24-25) separated the two streams, which once again reveals the futility of trying to designate mid-summer shorebirds as "late" or "early." However, so widespread were the sightings in the June 27-29 period that it appears that a significant movement occurred at that time. In the s.w., arrivals on June 27 included Ruddy Turnstone, Greater Yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitcher and Least Sandpiper (PAW, DR), and at Whitby a Semipalmated Plover and Pectoral Sandpiper appeared June 29 (MB). Ruddy Turnstones, Lesser Yellowlegs and Semipalmated Sandpipers were scattered through the period—presumably summering individuals. The Piping Plover picture unfortunately remains unchanged from the spring report. The bird's absence from Long Pt. was recorded for the first time ever, although the last nesting there was in 1977 (DH). American Woodcock seemed in no trouble, with 33 on the Pinery B.B.S. alone (DM, JM). The Upland Plover picture was mixed, with the Kitchener-Waterloo region reporting 14% of last year's population (K.W.F.N.), but there were 18 on the Lambton B.B.S. (DR) and the species seemed to be maintaining its numbers in the main parts of its present range. Two Whimbrels were seen July 27, one at Whitby (MB) and one at Ottawa (JH, BG), where 15 Red Knots the next day (BMD) were also noteworthy.

The area around the mouth of Rainy R. yielded a string of noteworthy reports this summer: on Aug. 2-4, 600+ Lesser Yellowlegs were there, together with four Marbled Godwits and three Am. Avocets (DHE *et al.*). Details are awaited on a reported nesting of the latter species, which would be the first for Ontario (*vide* BD), and

the area also had an early Baird's Sandpiper, July 10 (AW). There are only 3 or 4 June records of Baird's in total, so reports from Mimico June 13 (BW) and Chelmsford June 15 (JN) were surprising. Ottawa had separate groups of 15 and 41 Stilt Sandpipers July 28 (BMD, SO) and a N. Phalarope June 14 (SG), and Pt. Pelee a Hudsonian Godwit June 4-5 (JG, AW). Wilson's Phalaropes continued to expand their range: probable breeders were reported from Toronto, Warton and Ottawa, and on Amherst I., five or more pairs were present, and downy young established the first Kingston area breeding (PM, RDW).

GULLS, TERNS—An Iceland Gull was on Amherst I., July 19 (RDW). In s.w. Ontario there were 35-40 Herring Gull nests on Big Chicken I., and a further 30-35 on E. Sister I. (PAW). Some high gull counts were recorded: Ring-billeds continue to dominate the Great Lakes colonies, and were estimated at 60,000 in Toronto (JAK), and on Pigeon I., there were 10,000 adults, with 12,000 on Amherst I., July 19 (RDW). One hundred fifty Bonaparte's Gulls were off Cobourg June 20-July 13 (ERM) and 15,000+ Franklin's were on L. of the Woods Aug. 2 (DHE *et al.*). Noteworthy in the s. were a Franklin's on R. Canard in June (PAW), a Black-legged Kittiwake at Whitby June 7 (DRc), and a Little Gull at Ottawa to June 2 (*vide* SG). The latter species probably bred at Long Pt., and there were numerous sightings along the lower Lakes, but little additional information was obtainable. Common Terns nested on the Mimico landfill (JAK) but the new Collingwood colony was down to 8 nests from 21 last year and the species continues scarce (DS, CJM). Two Arctic Terns were at Ottawa June 1 (RAF).

CUCKOOS THROUGH CAPRIMULGIDS—Cuckoos followed their usual irregular pattern of distribution: in the s.w. Yellow-billeds were common but Black-billeds scarce, except at the Pinery where no Yellow-billeds were seen, but there were six Black-billeds (DM, JM). The latter were common in Algonquin P.P., and a Yellow-billed was reported there July 27 (RT). The Owl Rehabilitation and Research Foundation, (hereafter, O.R.R.F.), had handled seven juvenile Screech Owls to the end of July—a closer-to-normal figure, but still below average (KM). Long-eared Owl nests were found on Amherst I. (RDW) and near Orillia (WZ), and two birds were seen at Cambridge June 14 (LR, PS) as well as one at Whitefish June 30 (CGB). There were Short-eared reports from more areas than I can ever recall before in summer: 5 pairs and at least 2 nests at Ottawa from May 25 (RMP), 3 nests on Wolfe I. (RDW), a nestling from Caledon to O.R.R.F., June 15 (KM), and at least four birds at Rainy R. in July (KJB, AMcT, PDP). At least one Chuck-will's-widow was at Rondeau throughout (PAW).

WOODPECKERS—Nests located in the s.w. included those of a Pileated Woodpecker at Arkona June 22 (AR), a Red-bellied in the Pinery (DM, JM), and at least three Hairies in Rondeau (PAW). Elsewhere a Red-bellied was seen at Sibbald Pt., June 4 (BP), a Red-headed at Peterborough June 1 (TW), and a

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker nest in Speyside (CAC *et al.*). In Quetico P.P., young left a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker nest July 8, and a pair of N. Three-toeds were seen July 11 (SP).

FLYCATCHERS, LARKS—Several observers felt that there had been some recovery of E. Phoebes: at Cambridge a June 14 census recorded 14, up from 5 in 1979. Flycatchers and warblers were major components in the movement in early June. At Long Pt., 16 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded June 7, and Prince Edward Point's (hereafter, P.E.Pt.) last bird in spring appeared June 17 (*vide* DH, RDW). By early July birds were again moving, with a Least at Long Pt., July 9. The strange June weather may have been the cause of a Yellow-bellied on territory at Pimisi Bay in atypical habitat (LdeKL) and an Olive-sided at Spottiswood June 23 (DR1, MS). An Acadian Flycatcher was again on territory at Spottiswood (*vide* CAC) but none was seen at Rondeau, a location usually viewed as their stronghold in the Province (PAW). Algonquin P.P.'s first-ever summer Horned Lark was seen June 28 (GT), emphasizing the scarcity of open country species over much of the forested shield.

CROWS THROUGH WRENS—The bonanza of Rainy R. sightings included at least one Black-billed Magpie nest (*vide* BD), documentation is awaited on what would be the first (and long awaited) proven nesting! A Com. Raven at Warton was unusually far s on the Bruce Pen., as the species continues its slow expansion there (JWJ). Wrens seemed to be staging some recovery, although the picture was far from clear. In Algonquin P.P., Winter Wrens were coming back, although still much reduced in numbers (RT) and this paralleled my own impression across the n in June. There were also birds at Rondeau (PAW) and three singing males at W. Montrose (CAC *et al.*). On the other hand there were none on the Mattawa or Port Carling B.B.S., for the first time in 11 years (CJM). Long-billed Marsh Wren reports were even more contradictory, as at B.M. there were 150 in mid-July (MF) but at Tiny Marsh only one was found in 3 days, July 5, 15 & 16 (CJM, EAM) and there were only 2-3 at Wye Marsh (FW). There was little new on Carolina Wrens, although a hatch-year bird was trapped at P.E.Pt., July 2 (JD), and a bird over-wintered n. of Bruce's Mines (JK, *vide* TDM). A small colony of Short-billed Marsh Wrens was located in Halton Region in May (BE, CAC) and one was in Algonquin P.P., June 24 (JR, RK).

MIMIDS, THRUSHES—Mockingbird reports included a nesting at Ottawa and a pair at Ingersoll throughout (DB). The Pinery had some unusual Mimid nests: a Gray Catbird nest built in and of cattails, and 2 of 5 Brown Thrasher nests located on the ground (DM, JM). The E. Bluebird picture seemed improved: 17 pairs in boxes at Meaford (JCC), four pairs in Waterloo, one on Pelee I. (CAC *et al.*), a pair near Wheatley (PAW), two in the Pinery (DM, JM) and six pairs on the Carden Plain with many sightings elsewhere. A Mountain Bluebird on the Carden Plain near Darymple L., July 7-Aug

8 was unprecedented (JAS). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nests were found at Wesleyville (ERM) and P.E.Pt. (RDW) with a bird n. to Rainy R., July 12-13 (KJB,AMcT,PDP).

PIPITS THROUGH VIREOS—At least two *Sprague's Pipits* at Rainy R., July 3 (JL,AG,BD,m.ob.) were the first-ever for the Province. Good documentation was received, but acceptance to full status as a Provincial record probably hangs on the quality of a tape made of the song in the field. One can only speculate about the contribution of the abnormally dry conditions both there and farther w. to this remarkable influx of westerners. Loggerhead Shrikes gave no cause for cheer: six pairs on the Carden Plain (JAS), 4-5 pairs in the Ottawa area (SG) and singles in 3 sites around Kingston constitute the only reports. There were none either on the Bruce Peninsula (JWJ) or on Manitoulin I. (JN). Apparently pairs of White-eyed Vireos were present in both Pelee and Rondeau. Yellow-throated Vireos nest-building at Windfall L., Manitoulin I., were beyond the n. limit of the species' range (DF): ironically none were recorded in the Bruce Pen. (JWJ). Southerly Solitary Vireos were in song at Hilton Falls in June (CAC,BE,WC), Sauble Falls June 28 and Miller L., July 23 (JWJ).

WARBLERS—The Pinery had a host of noteworthy warblers apparently on territory: a Golden-winged singing June 16, and a Magnolia, three Ceruleans, 20+ Pines, five+ Prairies, and a Canada July 1 (DM,JM). A natural areas survey in nearby Thedford yielded still more, with another Magnolia, a N. Parula, and a Hooded (*vide* AR). Golden-winged Warblers were widespread, from Rainy R., where one was banded Aug. 2 (DHE *et al.*) to Tobermory June 9 (JWJ), Algonquin, where they are now regular on the e. side (*vide* RT), and colonies of 12 near Peterborough (GC *et al.*) and 35+ at Kingston (RKE). Other warbler reports in-

cluded a Yellow-rumped nest at Sibbald Pt. (BP) and a ♀ Connecticut at Long Pt., July 20 (DH). A Yellow-breasted Chat nesting at Rondeau (PAW) established, strangely, the first proven nesting for the County (*vide* AHK). Two were calling at Cambridge June 14 (CAC *et al.*).

BLACKBIRDS—There were two successful Yellow-headed Blackbird nests at B.M. (MF) and a bird was at Taunton July 27 (BK,m.ob.). Orchard Orioles nested at Bowmanville and Cambridge as well and, as usual, at Point Pelee, and birds were seen at Whitby July 17 (PB), Glen Morris June 14 (CAC *et al.*), and the Pinery in mid-June (DM). Four active Brewer's Blackbird colonies were located and three nests found in the Bruce Pen.; birds were sighted occasionally in other areas as well (JWJ).

FINCHES, SPARROWS—After an absence of two summers, Indigo Buntings returned as common breeding birds to Highway 60 in Algonquin P.P. (RT), and the species was also reported as much more numerous on the Bruce Pen. (JWJ). The House Finch success story continues: no information was received on the only established population at Niagara-on-the-Lake, but the species nested at Kingston, with at least 3 families, and six adults and seven young seen simultaneously (BGr,HQ *et al.*). Another pair raised several young at St. Thomas (RKi, MHF), breeding was suspected at Toronto (m.ob.), and a bird was present throughout at Ottawa (BC). This explosion in the species' population is particularly interesting in the light of the high numbers noted in last winter's Appalachian Region report. Another expanding species, Clay-colored Sparrow, established a new colony at Tiny Marsh with two males (CJM), and nesting was confirmed at P.E.Pt., July 20, the first for Kingston (RDW). A Grasshopper Sparrow was reported from Thunder Bay June 22 (MR,CG,NH) and in the s. there were six pairs at Thedford (*vide*

AR) and 19 on the Lambton B.B.S. (DR) but few other reports. Henslow's Sparrows continued to decline: the Simcoe County colony had only four birds, partly owing to cultivation of the field by the Ministry of Natural Resources. However, a bird was located in Oro Township, July 18 (CJM). A Rufous-sided Towhee was recorded in Algonquin June 20 (GH,AM) and the Park had its first proven Lincoln's Sparrow breeding with a pair feeding young July 30 (GH).

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NIAGARA—CHAMPLAIN REGION

/Douglas P. Kibbe

Most of the Region sweltered through the hottest, driest summer in history, although certain local areas experienced sufficient cold, wet spells in June to cause some nestling mortality. The heat wave and drought in the South may have been responsible for a small influx of wading birds, but in general, few weather-related occurrences were noted.

The real news this summer was that of the progress made on the Vermont and New York state Breeding Bird Atlas Projects. Vermonters, now in their fourth year, achieved partial coverage of all priority "blocks" with a majority of the blocks now satisfying the previously-selected arbitrary completion level, at least 75 species per block with 50 percent confirmed as breeders. Efforts during the final year will concentrate on blocks which failed to meet this standard.

New Yorkers, in the initial year of their Atlas effort, mobilized over 700 observers in their effort to cover some 5000 blocks. Although only about 650 blocks were covered this summer, the enthusiastic response elicited has convinced all but the most sceptical of the ultimate success of this mammoth undertaking.

Workers in both states are urged to keep careful records of clutch size, and all egg, nestling, and fledgling dates. These data are of immense value in any discussions of the reproductive parameters of species populations, but with the passing of oology, are seldom noted or reported by today's birders.

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL—Tardy Horned Grebes were recorded at Derby Hill, Dead Creek, and Ithaca, N.Y., June 1, 13 & July 13, respectively. Double-crested Cormorants continue to occur regularly on the L. Champlain Islands, still without evidence of breeding. The Region's only nesting colony, on Little Galloo Island in e.



L. Ontario, is presumably the source of the perennial host of New York sightings. Southern herons made one of the strongest showings in recent years. Little Blue Herons appeared at Basic Res. (a belated report, May 17, *fide* RG), and Kendall, an immature July 18 (MD, WL). At least 14 Cattle Egret nests were found on the L. Champlain Is. Surprisingly, this adaptive newcomer to the Region's breeding avifauna has been virtually unreported from the w. half of the Region in recent years. Great Egrets made a strong post-breeding incursion throughout the Region, but the number of (presumably) non-breeding summer residents remains well below that typical of a decade ago. One or more Snowy Egrets lingered in Vermont through mid-June and post-breeding wanderers began to appear throughout the Region during the last week of July. An imm. Yellow-crowned Night Heron was carefully observed and sketched in Ithaca (DS) and an adult appeared briefly on Pt. Pleasant in Oswego County (JK,FS,GS) June 24. Upstate New York's first **White Ibis**, an immature, was studied from 30 yards at Braddock Bay July 18 by an early-rising observer (MD) and the season's only Glossy appeared nearby at Hamlin June 3 & 4 (KG,MD). Reports of laggard waterfowl included the usual scattered observations of Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead and Oldsquaw along with one Whistling Swan at Montezuma N.W.R., June 22.

HAWKS THROUGH GROUSE—The Braddock Bay hawk watch, again monitored through June, set another record of 38,800 birds with all-time highs for three species: 6271 Sharp-shinned; 2823 Red-tailed; and 24,204 Broad-winged hawks (L&NM). A Golden Eagle "cruising across" Keene Valley July 10 (HK), constituted the only report of this rare Adirondack breeder. Sibling Bald Eagles "hacked" to the wild from Montezuma N.W.R. in 1976 made national news again when they paired at the tender age of 4 years and successfully fledged one of two hatchlings. Back at Montezuma, a pair of Ospreys made news by establishing c. New York's first active nest and then proceeding to harass this year's participants in the eagle-hacking program. A single Peregrine Falcon visited Sandbar W.M.A., July 27 (M&SM). Gray Partridge sightings from the Massena area were up slightly (LC).

S.A.

Although the spruce forests surrounding Moose Bog appeared well on their way to preservation from lumbering when the Vermont Fish and Game Department acquired the property, plans are apparently brewing to clear-cut portions to provide habitat for white-tailed deer. This action, to be taken in a state already overrun with deer, will result in the degradation of one of the state's last Spruce Grouse breeding areas. Since this is the only portion of the species' breeding range currently afforded any protection in the state, the clearcutting may even result in the eventual extirpation of the species from Vermont.

RALLIDAE THROUGH LARIDAE—A crane, presumably a Sandhill, was observed

flying toward Marcellus, N.Y., June 19 (MR). Summer brought the usual array of shorebird late-departure and/or early arrival dates (depending on the birds' direction of flight or the disposition of the observer). The following represent some of the more interesting records: four Whimbrel at Braddock Bay July 17 (RC *et al.*); an Am. Golden Plover at Montezuma N.W.R., July 9; Solitary Sandpiper—many n. Vermont sightings during first week of July; Lesser Yellowlegs, 120 at Buffalo July 12 (B.O.S.) the best of many reported that week; a \emptyset Ruff at Montezuma N.W.R., July 14; a Short-billed Dowitcher at Buffalo July 3; two breeding-plumaged Stilt Sandpipers at Montezuma N.W.R., July 14 (DS) and another July 31 at Shelburne, Vt. (BF) where the species is considered very rare. Although Wilson's Phalaropes were again spotted during the breeding season—June 9 at Hamlin, June 11 at Chili, July 20 at Buffalo, and July 29 at Westport—no evidence of breeding was found.

An imm. Glaucous Gull appeared at Parma June 20 (MD), establishing the Region's first mid-summer record. A California Gull appeared briefly July 7 & 8 at Rochester (MS *et al.*). An imm. Laughing Gull visited Charlotte, Vt. (MD *et al.*) in late July. Apparently four separate Franklin's Gulls were sighted at Ithaca during July (DS, DM *et al.*) and two others were found near Rochester in June. This species has a long history of regular passage through the Niagara Falls area, but has only recently begun to appear in c. New York. Although non-breeding Bonaparte's Gulls regularly summer in New York, a bird on Vermont's Kent Pond July 22 (MBD) was apparently a state first. An alarming report that there were no successful Com. Tern colonies in U.S. waters in e.L. Ontario was received (GS), but St. Lawrence R. colonies were reported to be increasing (LC). A max. count of 31 Caspian Terns at Ithaca (DS) was very good.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WRENS—An influx of Black-billed Cuckoos in c. Vermont was noted in late June (WN). A Barn Owl celebrated July 4 at Chili (JS *et al.*). Far fewer Screech Owls than expected were reported. Observers are encouraged to use tapes to elicit responses from what is probably our most abundant raptor, if they hope to adequately delineate its distribution and relative abundance. Reports of single Long-eared Owls at Massena and Delhi provided the only records of this secretive denizen of our conifer stands and swamps. Short-eared Owls "seemed to be everywhere there was a wetland" on the lake plains e. of L. Ontario (LC) and breeding was finally confirmed in Vermont. Owing to increased observer coverage, several Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were found at a new site near Island Pond and a Northern was present at Indian Falls in the Adirondacks. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers continued, as usual, to migrate well into June. Acadian Flycatchers were found at a number of locations in Chautauqua County (SE) with singing males "every 100 to 150 yards" in some appropriate bottomland forest breeding habitats (MJ). Further n. and e. the species nested again in

Bergen Swamp and was sighted (and taped) at Ithaca. While the species may be a newcomer to many regional observers, it occurred regularly on the Ontario lake plains and in the Finger Lakes region several decades ago. It is doubtful (*contra* Bull 1975, '76 "Birds of New York State") that it was ever truly extirpated from the state or that it was absent from L. Erie plains, as the dearth of records from that area seems to imply.

The status of the Cliff Swallow seems something of an enigma in the Region, with colonies widespread and thriving in the e portion but sparse and struggling in the w half. Over 1000 nests were counted on Robert Moses Dam at Massena (LC). Ithaca's Fish Crow colony now hosts three pair (*fide* DM) and two were seen as far n. as Cementon in the Hudson R. Valley in April (*fide* RG). Despite a host of winter reports, Tufted Titmice, which forsake feeders and turn relatively silent when nesting, were confirmed breeding at only one Vermont locality. Short-billed Marsh Wrens were found at only one Vermont and four New York locations.

MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS—A hardy Mockingbird was found at 1700 ft near Huntington, Vt. (JA). Unprecedented was the reappearance of the **Varied Thrush** at the Athens, Vt., feeding station June 14 (*fide* DC). Two Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Letchworth S.P., June 1 (G.O.S.) were, presumably, very late migrants, since there are no confirmed New York breeding records outside the Adirondacks. An intrepid observer in w. New York (VP) who this year found and studied over 500 nests of 61 species provides some insight into the hazards of being a nestling Cedar Waxwing. Over 65 percent of 56 nests documented were lost to predation. It would be interesting to compare this predation rate with that experienced by earlier-nesting species in similar scrub habitats. Although Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from 6 L. Ontario plains locations, a single known successful nesting was less than heartening. Atlas workers produced a couple more "probable" breeding Philadelphia Vireos in the Green and Adirondack Mts, and a pair of birds feeding young responded almost instantly to a tape-recording in the Northeast Kingdom, Vt. (FO *et al.*).

WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS—Belated reports were received (*fide* RG) of an extralimital Prothonotary Warbler at Ghent May 17-19 and a Yellow-throated Warbler at E. Glenville May 9. One tireless Vermont atlaser (WE) again maintained records of all warblers seen. The following percentages are based on nearly 2200 observations made this year in 27 blocks scattered throughout the state: 24% Com. Yellowthroat; 12-13% Am Redstart, Chestnut-sided Warbler; 8-9% Yellow Warbler, Ovenbird; 3-5% Yellow-rumped, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-and-white, Canada, and Blackburnian Warbler; <3% Black-throated Green, Nashville, Blackpoll and Mourning Warbler, N. Parula, N. and Louisiana Waterthrush, and Golden-winged Warbler. While these percentages are probably a closer approximation of the true relative abundance of these species in the entire state than those presented

earlier (AB 31:1138 and 32: 1158) they may still reflect biases associated with differential habitat coverage (e.g. Blackpolls are limited to mountaintop conifer stands and probably are slightly overrepresented in this sample).

A singing N. Parula at Montezuma N.W.R. would, had breeding been confirmed, have marked the first nesting record in w. New York in 2 decades. The decline of regional populations, due to acid rain which kills the nesting substrate *Usnea* lichens, has been addressed by this editor previously (see AB 33(6):831). Many observers are unaware of the magnitude of migration which occurs in July and early August—witness the 150 Yellow Warblers at Ithaca's Steward Park July 22 (DS). Bay-breasted Warblers were finally confirmed breeding in Vermont,

somewhere deep in the woods south (?) of Maidstone Lake. Yellow-breasted Chats were reported from half a dozen w. New York localities.

Western Meadowlarks lingered in at least 2 localities near Rochester during June (G.O.S., R.B.A.). Rusty Blackbird numbers remained far below normal at all known breeding areas in Vermont. An ardent but unmated Dickcissel spent June at Letchworth S.P. (DB, m.ob.). Equally in vain were the displays of a Clay-colored Sparrow near Willsboro June 18-July 14 (m.ob.) and a White-crowned Sparrow which tarried at Braddock Bay through June (R.B.A.).

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APPALACHIAN REGION

/ George A. Hall

It was generally a benign summer for the bird, if not always for the birder, and most areas reported successful nesting seasons. June was slightly cooler than normal in the north; to the south and east the month was hot. July was much warmer than normal throughout. June was drier than normal



everywhere, but most of the Region experienced a very wet July (an excess of 2.91 in. of rain at Pittsburgh) which ushered in the wettest late summer on record. However, in the east the whole season was dry, and many crops did not develop normally.

This account is organized, as it was last summer, on the basis of several topics of interest, followed by a listing of the more unusual species in taxonomic order.

SOUTHWARD BREEDING RANGE EXTENSIONS—These accounts have long emphasized the trend for n. species to extend their ranges S, and this trend continues un-

abated. Hooded Mergansers raised young at Warren, Pa. (BH), and one was seen at L. Chillisquaque, Pa., July 31 (SS). Goshawks raised two young near State College, Pa. (RW) and one was seen at Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa., (hereafter, P.N.R.), June 5 (RCL). In recent years the Sharp-shinned Hawk has been almost entirely limited to the higher mountains as a nesting species. This year one pair fledged young near Knoxville (JT), and at another location there was one

seen carrying food (JH). There was also a possible nesting near Watauga L., Tenn. (GE), and there were many more reports than usual throughout e. Tennessee (LTu, GE). Upland Sandpipers continue to increase S in the Great Valley.

Two singing ♂ Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were again found on Mt. Rogers, Va., the third year there (PSH, FS). Also in the Mt. Rogers area, above 4800 ft, about 11 pairs of Alder Flycatchers were thought to be present, and one nest was found (FS). Alder

Flycatchers also nested successfully above 5000 ft on Roan Mt., Tenn. (GE). Lowland records for this species came from Edinboro, Pa. (DS) and Union City, Pa. (JM), Butler County, Pa. (PH), and most remarkably from Washington County, Pa. (SSI). The Willow Flycatcher continues to do well, and was reported as common in the lowlands near Mt. Rogers, Va. (FS).

Black-capped Chickadees have moved into the Mt. Rogers area in the last decade, and were found to be common above 3500 ft in June (FS). The species nested at about 3000 ft in Shenandoah County, Va. (RSI). A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches came to a feeder all

summer at Warren, Pa. (HJ), and there were June records from Alan Seeger Natural Area, Centre Co., Pa., and at Pittsburgh (MR), both well s. of the birds' normal range. This species was quite scarce in its normal breeding range on Roan Mt., Tenn. (GE), Mt. Rogers, Va. (FS), and the Cheat Mts. of W.Va. (GAH). A Hermit Thrush nest on Mt. Rogers May 28 provided the second documented nesting for Virginia (PSH). The species is increasing in that area at the extreme s. part of its range. The species was common in its normal breeding area in n. Pennsylvania (RFL) and the Cheat Mts., W.Va. (GAH), and singing males were heard in Snyder County, Pa., July 4 (SS) and near State College, Pa., June 21 (RW & SB). Two singing ♂ Swainson's Thrushes were located on Mt. Rogers, Va. (PSH), but this species is not increasing there.

In its normal nesting range the Golden-crowned Kinglet is making only a slow comeback from the mortality caused by recent cold winters, and this year it did not nest on Laurel Ridge, Westmoreland Co., Pa. (RCL); but there were two nestings well s. of its normal range: R.B. Winter S.P., Union Co., Pa. (SS) and near Colyer L., Centre Co., Pa. (RW & SB). Both of these occurred in non-native spruce plantations. There were several summer reports of Nashville Warblers out of normal range: June 11, State College, Pa. (DB); 2 other locations near State College, June 16 & 26 and July 2 (RW); one, possibly a juvenile seen in Wyoming County, Pa., July 24 (SS); and 2 reports from the Rockingham County, Va. area in June (LT). Single Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen at Presque Isle S.P., Pa., June 2 (DS) and Leeper, Pa., in July (LC), and the pioneering population on Gaudineer Knob, W.Va., apparently was reduced again to one pair, after having been up to three in 1978 (GAH). Magnolia Warblers continue to increase in the s. areas which they have recently entered. A Canada Warbler summered in Zaleski S.F., Vinton Co., O. (JP).

There is a permanent population of Red Crossbills in the s. mountains, but until this year there had been no definite nesting record. This year four young fledged from a nest

on Reddish Knob, Va. (R.B.C.). Other cross-bill records of note were: a bird of the year banded at State College, Pa., July 25 (first summer record)—(MW), a juvenile seen on Whitetop Mt., Va., June 12 (LT & NM), sightings at two locations in Rockingham County, Va. (LT), and in the Chattahoochee N.F., Ga., July 29 (HD).

NORTHWARD BREEDING RANGE EXTENSIONS—While many of the s. species are moving N, and are increasing in their new range (i.e. Red-bellied Woodpecker and Mockingbird), this movement has not produced as many exciting new records as have the S expansions. There were a few newsworthy events: the first breeding season records for the Chuck-will's-widow at Roanoke, Va., were established by a road kill June 1, and a singing bird June 2 (Bhu & NM). The Fish Crow has been steadily advancing up the Susquehanna drainage in Pennsylvania for many years, and although it occurred in below normal numbers at Lock Haven (PS), it was reported as being present at State College, Pa., all summer (RW).

A "Brewster's" type warbler was found at about 3000 ft in the Canaan Valley, W.Va. (DK). If the Blue-winged Warbler has succeeded in reaching this area it may be "bye-bye *chrysoptera*" since it had been thought that the Golden-winged Warbler might find its final refuge at the higher elevations. Other hybrid warblers in the normal range of the Golden-winged were at State College, Pa., June 16 (RW), and Union County, Pa., June 5 (SS), but one in Ohio County, W.Va., during late May to mid-June (BB & GP) was in the normal range of the Blue-winged.

BLUE LIST AND "DISASTER" SPECIES—Red-cockaded Woodpeckers nested successfully in Great Smoky Mountains N.P., the first nesting there since 1965 (CN), and a single bird was seen in Campbell County, Tenn., June 3 (CN). The Bald Eagle nestings in Crawford County, Pa., raised four young (RFL), and sightings were reported from Sullivan County, Pa., July 30 (SS), Cumberland, Md., several times during the season (KH), Clarke County, Va., at least 3 sightings (RSi), Norris L., Tenn., one adult through the season (JH) and Cherokee L., Tenn., one adult and one immature July 28 (WJ & GR).

The Carolina Wren has returned to normal numbers in the south but has made only slight headway in the north. The Winter Wren populations are back to normal in the normal range, and three singing males at Ohio, Pa., July 19, were slightly out of normal range (PS), but one found in Lewis County, W.Va., in early June (B.B.C.) was probably only a straggler. There were only two reports of Bewick's Wren: Lewis County, W.Va. (B.B.C. Foray) and Grayson Highlands S.P., Va., June 11 & 12 (FS *et al.*). The E. Bluebird has made very little recovery from winter mortality. At Warren, Pa., the 200 boxes of *Operation Bluebird* fledged approximately 400 young birds compared with former years when each box averaged about three birds fledged (WH). There were mixed reports of Yellow-breasted Chats. They were common in Lewis County, W.Va., (B.B.C.) and at State College, Pa. (RW) with a phenomenal

51 counted on a B.B.S. route in n. West Virginia (tied with robin for second most abundant species)—(RB) but they were low in numbers at Pittsburgh (PH), P.N.R. (RCL), and Morgantown (GAH).

The grassland sparrows continue to do poorly in most places. In w. Pennsylvania it was felt that this was not due to habitat deterioration (PH), but I suspect that in most cases this is the cause. Wise County Virginia joins the small group of areas where Grasshopper Sparrows are increasing in new habitat provided by recovered strip mines. The Savannah Sparrow was missing from the Chilhowie area of s.w. Virginia where a V.S.O. foray had located them in 1974 (FS).

EXTRAORDINARY DATES—There was an unusual rash of late sightings of spring migrants, as well as early sightings of fall migrants. Early June dates can be assigned to straggling spring birds, and July dates can be assumed to designate early fall birds, but what can one infer from late June dates? Common Loons were reported from Watauga L., Tenn., June 1 (GE), L. Chillisquette, Pa., June 1 (SS), Warren, Pa., June 7, (JS), Butler County, Pa., June 12 (RBy), Somerset County, Pa., July 22-31 (G & RS), and Hanover, Pa., July 31 (RH). A Horned Grebe was at Presque Isle S.P., Pa., June 2-17 (JF). Unusual dates for waterfowl sightings included: Pintail, Roanoke, July 15-17 (MP); Blue-winged Teal, Clarke County, Va., pair seen through June (RSi), Kingston, Tenn., three present in July (*vide* LTu); Green-winged Teal, Presque Isle S.P., Pa., July 21 (JM); Ring-necked Duck, two males all summer at Kingston, Tenn. (SJS & BS); Lesser Scaup, summered at Kingston (SJS & BS); Ruddy Duck, State College, Pa., July 29 (MW); and Bufflehead, Wilbur L., Tenn., June 15-22 (GE).

The w. Pennsylvania region produced a series of unusual sighting dates: Tennessee Warbler, Pittsburgh June 5 (DF); Cape May Warbler, Pittsburgh June 7 (DF); Blackburnian Warbler, Washington County June 12 (SSi); Pine Grosbeak, New Kensington June 22-23 (PR) and Pine Siskin, New Kensington throughout June (PR). An Evening Grosbeak was seen in Crawford County, Pa., July 7 (JM).

CORMORANTS, HERONS AND IBISES—There were three reports of Double-crested Cormorants: from Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., June 21 (CH), Churchville, Va., June 28-29 (CC) and Blacksburg, Va., July 9 (CR). There was apparently the greatest late summer flight of the Great Egret that has occurred in the years that these accounts have been written. Some 15 locations scattered throughout the Region from Lock Haven, Pa., to Dalton, Ga., reported exceptionally good numbers. Snowy Egrets were reported from Presque Isle S.P., Pa., June 2 (DS), Susquehanna River near Harrisburg, July 27 (SS), and Watauga L., Tenn., July 18 & 20 (GE). Little Blue Herons were seen at State College, Pa., June 1 (CS), Hocking County, O., July 8-31 (JP), Clinton, Tenn., up to eight July 14+ (LTu *et al.*), Surgoinsville, Tenn. (WJ & GR), and Knoxville, July 5 (PP). A pair of Yellow-crowned Night Herons raised three young at L. Logan, Hocking

Co., O. (JP), and at Elizabethton, Tenn., 2 nests fledged 5-7 young (GE).

White Ibises, all immatures, were unusually abundant for this Region. One was present near Dalton, Ga., for 2 months (AH & HD). There were 4 reports from Tennessee: Watauga L., one July 20-29 (GE); Kingston, one July 16-31 (PP & SJS); Clinton, one July 22-31 (LTu *et al.*); and Surgoinsville, five July 5 (WJ & GR); and 3 reports from Virginia: Botetourt County, July 20 (BO), Roanoke, two July 29 (SN, E&HM), and near Staunton, one July 31 (*vide* YL).

WATERFOWL AND RAPTORS—A Mute Swan was seen in Snyder County, Pa., June 7 (SS) and another was at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., July 27 (KJ). The introduced populations of Canada Goose in w. Pennsylvania had a very successful breeding season.

Turkey Vultures nested in Warren County, Pa. (TG), which is approaching the n. limit of the range locally. The consensus was that most of the Buteos are doing quite well, and in particular the Red-shouldered Hawk occurred in unusually good numbers (*e.g.*, the five listed on a Wise County, Va., B B S route compared with a usual one—RP).

RAILS AND SHOREBIRDS—Virginia Rails were reported from Montour County, Pa., June 3 and Northumberland County, Pa., July 3 (SS), Conneaut Marsh, Crawford Co., Pa., one June 14 and six July 16 (RFL), a juvenile at Saltville, Va., July 25 (TD), Clarke County, Va., all summer (RSi) and Berkeley Springs, W.Va., July 17 (RSi). Soras were also reported from Northumberland County, Pa. (SS), Conneaut, Pa. (RFL) and Clarke County, Va. (RSi).

Single Com. Snipe were seen near Stuart's Draft, Va., June 25 (LT) and July 11 (TR). Both dates seem much too early for migrants of this species, but it is not known to nest in this area.

The early arrivals of the fall shorebird migration appeared the third week of July, the earliest date being July 15 at Presque Isle, Pa. There were a number of unusual records besides the yellowlegs and "peep": Whimbrel, Presque Isle July 22 (DS), eight Short-billed Dowitchers, Presque Isle July 15 (RFL), dowitcher sp., Waynesboro, Va., July 29 (MH), and Clinton, Tenn., July 22 & 23 (LTu *et al.*), Red Knot, Roanoke July 28-30, first local record (MP), Sanderling, Clinton, Tenn., July 22 (CN & DH) and Kingston, Tenn., July 27 (LTu), White-rumped Sandpiper, Presque Isle July 26 (JF), and Am Avocet, Princeton, W.Va., July 28 (JPh), Stilt Sandpiper, Roanoke July 22-30, with a peak count of 12, July 29 (JPa).

GULLS AND TERNS—Lake Erie at Presque Isle produced its usual good gull records: Laughing Gull June 22 (JM), Franklin's Gull July 31 (JM), and Great Black-backed Gull July 15 (RFL). More unusual were the Great Black-backed Gull at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., June 1 (JW) and June 30 (MW), the first local summer records, and the Laughing Gull at Kingston, Tenn., June 24 (BS & RBe).

Forster's Terns were reported from Presque Isle, June 2 & 8 (DS), L. Logan, Hocking Co., O., June 28-July 1 (JP), and Bald Eagle

S P., Pa., July 5 (CH). Caspian Terns were at Presque Isle June 8 (DS) and July 15 (RCL).

OWLS AND WOODPECKERS—At Lock Haven, Pa., the Barn Owl seems to be doing well (PS) but only 2 nests could be found near Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE). The Screech Owl has still not recovered from the decimation of recent winters. A Long-eared Owl was seen near Townville, Crawford County, Pa., July 4 (RFL & ML). Summering Saw-whet Owls were found in the Canaan Valley, W.Va., in early June (DK), Great Smoky Mts. N.P., July 2 (MO), and on Whitetop, Va., June 13 (LT *et al.*).

The Whip-poor-will continues to disappear from areas where it was once common. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker formerly nested throughout the higher elevations of this Region, but in the last 30 years they have gradually disappeared. Thus 2 summer records from Wyoming and Sullivan counties, Pa., were encouraging (SS).

FLYCATCHERS, BLUE JAYS AND WRENS—A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found at Staunton, Va., July 29 (LT & YL). At State College, Pa., it was felt that the Blue Jay population was down, and that the nesting success was low. A banding station there which had been averaging 32 young Blue Jays/year banded only 13 this summer (MW).

Long-billed Marsh Wrens were seen at Montandon Marsh, Northumberland Co.,

Pa., all through July (SS). A Short-billed Marsh Wren was at Karthaus, Clearfield Co., Pa., June 2 (PS).

VIREOS, WARBLERS AND FINCHES—A White-eyed Vireo was at Jersey Shore, Pa., June 1 (PS), while Solitary Vireos at Union City, Erie Co., Pa., June 18 & July 4&7 (JM) were well out of summer range. A Prothonotary Warbler summered in Hocking County, O., (JP) while Swainson's Warblers were reported from Roanoke County, Va., three singing males, June 1-6, the first local record (NM), and for the second season in a row from Wilbur L., Tenn. (GE).

Blue Grosbeaks were reported from Blacksburg, Va., July 7 & 22 (JMu), from Lyndhurst, Va., in late July (RS), and in Clarke and Frederick counties, Va., they were more common than normal (RSi), but farther s. in Shenandoah County they were below the numbers of recent years (R.B.C.). Small colonies of Dickcissels were found near Woodstock, Va., and in Shenandoah County, Va. (RSi), and one male was seen in Augusta County, Va., July 3-8 (LT). The House Finch expansion continues without let up. Nesting has now been reported from throughout the Region n. of s. Tennessee, and at State College, Pa., a total of 554 young House Finches were banded in June and July in one backyard station (MW). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen at Montandon Marsh, Pa., June 10 (SS).

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/Daryl D. Tessen

While early June was cool, the duration of the period was characterized by very warm temperatures (90°-100°F) and a seemingly endless procession of thunderstorms, many of which were severe. Strong winds, heavy rains and often hail accompanied most storms. An especially severe storm hit Escanaba, Michigan, during the first week in June, causing considerable property damage. However without a doubt the worst storm of the season struck a four county area (Eau Claire, Chippewa, Dunn and Pierce) in western Wisconsin the night of July 15. Winds in excess of 110 mph were recorded at Eau Claire. Damage to property was extensive, approaching 250 million dollars. As the storm hit after the prime nesting period the effect on the bird population was undoubtedly minimal.

Exceptions to the warm, wet summer included northwestern Minnesota where a drought that commenced during a dry winter and spring became firmly entrenched with a rainless summer in that part of the state. Total crop failures were common and many wetlands dried up. Michigan had a more normal weather pattern with only occasional periods of heat and localized heavy rainfall.

For the third consecutive summer there was little excitement generated ornithologically.

There were few wanderers from other areas and even the previous years' movement of southern species into the Region proved somewhat diminished this year. The best birds in this quiet summer proved to be two Black-necked Stilts that lingered for a week during mid-June in Michigan. Wisconsin had a Lazuli Bunting in early June and a sighting of a Mississippi Kite and Arctic Tern. Minnesota had its first summer Cinnamon Teal and nesting record for the Wilson's Warbler. Also noteworthy was the unusually early movement of various boreal warbler species, especially in Minnesota. This movement was more unusual this year than last owing to the considerably prolonged warm temperatures during July. Many reporters lamented the lack of shorebird habitat. For much of the Region a combination of a drier spring that enabled farmers to plant crops in normally flooded fields along with excessive summer rains that arrived too late caused the absence of suitable habitat.



[In the account below italicized names indicate counties.]

LOONS THROUGH IBISES—South of its normal summer range was an ad. Com Loon during June and an immature during June-July at Devil's Lake S.P., Wis. (KL) Five late migrating Red-throated Loons were at Wisconsin Pt., Superior, Wis., June 6 (RJO). In Wisconsin 1-3 pairs of Red-necked Grebes nested at Grassy L., Columbia, and Oakridge L., St. Croix, with the Rush L. colony doing extremely well as indicated by the 45-50 adults/young counted during June-

July. Five Horned Grebes were on the Shiawassee N.W.R., Mich., June 30 (MJ). An Eared Grebe summered in the Milwaukee harbor (m.ob.) while one was found across the lake in the sewage ponds in *Muskegon* June 25 & July 5 (GW, JPon). Two White Pelicans moved around the s. tip of Green Bay, Wis., June 10-July 1 (TE, JT). The Double-crested Cormorant picture continues to brighten in Wisconsin with 8, possibly 9, nesting sites. The largest colonies are at Mead W.M.A., with 100+ nests and on Green Bay (*Brown and Door*) totaling 300+ nests. Minnesota's Big Stone N.W.R. again had probable nesting Little Blue Heron, Cattle and Snowy Egrets. Additionally, one Little Blue and four Cattle were seen at the Pelican L. colony June 18 (G&MO) where nesting occurred several years ago. Wisconsin had nesting Cattle (14 pairs) and Snowy (1 pair) egrets, both at Green Bay (TE). Horicon N.W.R. had summering Cattle Egrets (DT, RH) plus two Little Blue Herons June 21 (DC). Michigan hosted one Cattle Egret July 22 in *Muskegon* (GW), and two at Pt. Mouillee July 27 (TH, TW, PY). Nesting Yellow-crowned Night Herons were found in Westland, Mich. (2 pairs—ACa) with an additional sighting July 13 in *Muskegon* (JHe, LB). Wisconsin had probable nesting pairs in *Outagamie* (JA, MP) and *Waupaca* (DD) with a single bird seen at Suamico July 26 (DT). Minnesota had summering birds at Big Stone N.W.R., and St. Paul with a June 8 sighting at Orwell W.M.A., *Otter Tail* (G&MO).

WATERFOWL—Mute Swans bred in n. Wisconsin (*Ashland-Bayfield*) with additional sightings from *Douglas*, *Door* and *Winnebago*. In Michigan, breeding occurred in *Newaygo*, *Macomb*, *Oakland* and *Wayne*, with an additional sighting from *Wason*. Whistling Swans were found in *Marinette*, Wis., June 16 (HL) and summering in *Winnebago* (TZ). In Minnesota one was at Paynesville July 20 (RJ). Snow Geese, unusual for this season, were found in the Region, with four June 13 in *Nicolett*, Minn., (JFr), single birds June 2 in *Winnebago* (TZ) and June 16 in *LaCrosse*, Wis., (FL). Minnesota had its first summer record for the **Cinnamon Teal** when a male was present in *Lyon* June 22-July 6 (HK, JP, AM). Canvasbacks were found until mid-June in Wisconsin's *Manitowoc* (CS), *Monroe* (EE) and *Winnebago* (TZ), with a pair summering at Goose Pond, Columbia Co. (m.ob.). Several Greater Scaup stayed in the Milwaukee harbor until July 12 (RG *et al.*). Lesser Scaup summered in 4 Wisconsin counties (*Manitowoc*, *Iron*, *Milwaukee* and *Outagamie*) with intermittent sightings in *Winnebago*, *Columbia*, *Brown* and *Douglas*. Michigan had two June 25 in *Muskegon* (GW). Out of range Com. Goldeneyes were found in *Wright*, Minn., July 8 (EH, SS) and *Brown*, Wis., July 26 (DT). A Bufflehead remained in *Door*, Wis., until June 14 (R&CL). South of its normal range was a ♀ Red-breasted Merganser in Milwaukee June 26+ (WW, DG).

HAWKS—Wisconsin had its ninth record for the **Mississippi Kite** with the sighting of one just inland from L. Michigan in *Ozaukee* June 5 (LD). For certain species, the breeding hawk picture in Wisconsin was most en-

couraging. For example the Goshawk had 15 confirmed nests, including one unusually s. in *Juneau*. Other species having a highly successful season were the Sharp-shinned, Red-shouldered, Broad-winged (and most encouragingly) the Cooper's hawks (TE). Equally heartening was the marked increase in Bald Eagle and Osprey productivity. The preliminary Wisconsin D.N.R. survey showed 230 eagle young this year, the most ever recorded. For the Osprey there were 98 active territories, 54 of which were successful. There were 103 young fledged including three rather remarkable ones whose nest on a tree stump moved 75 ft downriver from May to July (RJU).

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS—Spruce Grouse were found in *Oneida* (BS), *Vilas* (June 16, JB) and *Forest* (July 22—DT) Wis. A King Rail was heard at Green Bay July 26 (DT). Yellow Rails are being found more frequently in n. Minnesota, owing apparently to improved coverage. Besides the usual sites in *McGregor*, *Beltrami* and *Lake of the Woods*, several birds were heard in *Wilkin* and *Pennington* (KE). Wisconsin had one at Powell Marsh, Vilas Co., June 30 (RSp). Michigan had several June 25 at Seney N.W.R. (JS, TH).

SHOREBIRDS—Fifteen shorebird species lingered well into June in various parts of Wisconsin. Interesting sightings included a Whimbrel at Wisconsin Pt., Superior June 4 (RJo), the eleventh state record for the **Purple Sandpiper** with one at Baileys Harbor, *Door* June 7 (R&CL), a W. Sandpiper at Manitowoc June 20 (CS), summering Least Sandpipers at Milwaukee (DG) and Superior (RJo), and Sanderlings also at Superior (RJo), a Marbled Godwit at Green Bay June 1 (JJ) and a N. Phalarope in *Eau Claire* June 11 (JPo). Other noteworthy observations included three Semipalmated Plovers June 15 at Madison (ST), Ruddy Turnstones at Manitowoc June 15 (CS), a Lesser Yellowlegs June 11 in *Eau Claire* (JPo), White-rumped Sandpipers until June 15 at Madison (ST) and June 21 at Baileys Harbor (R&CL) and Baird's Sandpipers until June 9 at Milwaukee (DG). Piping Plovers nested in *Ashland* (RE) and possibly at Wisconsin Pt., Superior (RJo). One appeared at Madison July 31 (ST). Early was an Am. Golden Plover July 16 in *Eau Claire* (JPo). Solitary Sandpipers were already in *St. Croix* (JPo) and *Dane* (ST) by June 26-29. A Willet was at Manitowoc June 20-26 (CS). A Greater Yellowlegs appeared June 23 in *Eau Claire* (JPo) and in Lesser Yellowlegs there June 29 (JPo) and in Madison June 30 (ST). Western Sandpipers were found in s. *Dodge* July 19 (DT) and at Madison July 20 (St).

Michigan had nesting Piping Plovers again this summer at New Buffalo (RS) and Wau-goshanee Pt. (VJ). One was in *Cheboygan* July 16 (N&AK). A Red Knot was at St. Joseph July 27-29 (RS, LS, WB). A White-rumped Sandpiper was in *Muskegon* June 25 (GW) and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was in *Newaygo* July 24 (ES). The best find in the Region this summer proved to be the two **Black-necked Stilts** at Shiawassee N.W.R., June 6-13 (ER, JGo). For Minnesota the highlights included a Willet June 21 in *Wilkin* (KE) and three pairs of nesting Am.

Avocets at Salt L., *Lac Qui Parle*. Unfortunately heavy rains in early June destroyed all three nests.

GULLS THROUGH TERNS—Michigan had at least six Great Black-backed Gulls during late July in the Monroe marshes. Two Laughing and one Franklin's gulls were found at St. Joseph June 4 (WB). For Wisconsin, Laughing Gulls were found at Milwaukee until mid-July with a maximum of three (JF, RG, DT), and single birds at Manitowoc June 19 (SR, DT) and July 28 (DT). Franklin's Gulls were present at Milwaukee during the period with a max of seven (JF, DT, DG), at Manitowoc June 19 (SR, DT) and two July 28 (DT) while seven appeared July 16 at Eau Claire, apparently blown in during the devastating storm of the previous day (JPo). Little Gulls were again present at Two Rivers with a maximum of ten adults and 1 confirmed nest (JS, TE). At least two were seen intermittently during the period at Milwaukee (DG, RH, DT). An **Arctic Tern** was studied at leisure in company with Forster's and Common at Milwaukee June 10 (DT). This represents Wisconsin's ninth record. The Black Tern survey conducted by the Wisconsin D.N.R., showed this species continuing its decline in productivity in the state.

CUCKOOS THROUGH OWLS—For the second consecutive summer Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found in surprising numbers even in the n. parts of the Region, albeit somewhat decreased from last year's total Black-billed numbers were down from the previous summer. Minnesota had several interesting nesting owl records. There was an undocumented report of three **Hawk Owls** in *Aitkin* during the summer. Two appeared to be a nesting pair (SL). A pair of Burrowing Owls successfully fledged one young near Downer, *Clay* (G&MO). Great Gray Owls were found in several n. counties but most interesting were 12 nests in *Aitkin* (SL) and family groups in *Roseau* (TS) and *St. Louis* (KE). Short-eared Owls were found more frequently than usual, and were especially common in *Beltrami* and *Lake of the Woods*. Four Saw-whet Owl nests were located this summer, two of which were successful.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH STAR-LINGS—Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were found more frequently than usual in n. Minnesota. Two were in *Forest* Wis., July 22 (DT). Range extensions occurred in Minnesota for the Acadian Flycatcher with nesting at Nerstrand Woods S.P., *Rice* (OJ, DB) and for the Alder Flycatcher with singing birds in *Wilkin* and *Clay* (KE). South of its normal range was a Com. Raven in *Juneau*, Wis., June 21 (FL). Boreal Chickadees were reported from four Wisconsin counties. A Tufted Titmouse found in *Marquette* June 6 was a first for that part of Michigan (DC). Brown Creepers found June 7-29 in *Houston*, Minn., were considerably s of their normal range (FL). The only Carolina Wren report was of a singing bird in Michigan's *St. Clair*. Also in Michigan was a Mockingbird at Metrobeach June 15 (RL), while Wisconsin had single birds from mid-to late June in *Outagamie* (JA, MP) and July 12-Aug. 1+ in *Marathon* (K&JL). A Swain-

son's Thrush in Milwaukee July 23-29 probably was an early migrant (WW). South of its normal range was a pair of Ruby-crowned Kinglets in *Shawano* July 6 (MP). The **Sprague's Pipit** is becoming harder to find in Minnesota. Eckert had displaying males July 7 in *Norman* and July 9 in *Clay*. Both Wisconsin and Minnesota found Cedar Waxwings to be unusually abundant this summer, for no apparent reason. Suddenly this summer sightings, and most encouragingly, *nesting* of Loggerhead Shrikes were up. Wisconsin had successful nesting in *Sauk* (2 fledged—DT), *Eau Claire* (6 fledged—JPO), *Dunn* (2 nests, 4 fledged total—JPO), *Trempealeau* (unknown number fledged, *fide* JPO) and a lone sighting July 8 in *Iron* (MB). For Minnesota there was nesting in *Dakota* (2 fledged) and sightings in *Le Sueur*, *Clay* and *Mower* (2 sites).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS—Southern species were not as noticeable this summer as in the past few years. For example there were only two White-eyed Vireo sightings within the Region in contrast to the 12 sightings last year. Single birds were heard at Oakwoods Metropark, Mich., June 12 (EC) and in the Madison Arboretum, Wis., June 13 (JPO). Bell's Vireos were at the usual sites in *Grant* and *Rock*, Wis., and *Wabasha*, Minn. In addition a pair nested at St. Paul (m ob.) and one remained until July 5 in *Olmsted* (JFo). In Michigan a pair was observed daily near Jericho with one young being fed June 28 (DS,NL).

For the third consecutive year Prothonotary Warblers nested at Oakwoods Metropark, Mich. Worm-eating Warblers were observed in two different locales in *Sauk*, Wis. June 27-28 (LF1, SR). Again this summer Tennessee Warblers were found at unusual times. Witness the June 27 bird in Milwaukee (RG), the July 3 individual in Duluth (JG), two birds in *Taylor*, Wis., July 4 (SR, TSo) with mid-July sightings from *Chippewa*, *Trempealeau*, and *Sauk*, Wis., and *Anoka*, Minn. This species is apparently one that starts its fall wandering unusually early. A late spring migrant Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen in Milwaukee June 11 (DG). Black-throated Green Warblers summered just n. of the Twin Cities in *Anoka* (JH). A nesting pair of Cerulean Warblers discovered June 22 in *Otter Trail* (SMi) represented the first for w.c. Minnesota. As usual Yellow-throated Warblers were present near New Buffalo, Mich.

S.A.

The Kirtland's Warbler picture was encouraging again this year. The annual census in Michigan produced a count of 242 males, an increase of 15% from last year. Also encouraging was the location of one in Wisconsin's *Jackson* June 14 (Dt). This represents the third consecutive year it has been found here.

Pairs of Prairie Warblers were found June 15 in *Newaygo* (SM) and July 25 in *Mason* Mich., (EG). Kentucky Warblers were present in *Waukesha* and *Grant*, Wis. A Connecticut Warbler in *Jackson* June 14 (DT), if a summer resident, was far s. of its normal summer range. Yellow-breasted Chats were

found in *Dane*, *Walworth*, *Sauk* and *Waukesha*, Wis., with several pairs in the latter two counties. Unusual was one in Minnesota's *Scott* until June 20 (m.ob.). Michigan had a nesting pair of Hooded Warblers at Hoffmaster S.P. (LF). In Wisconsin nesting pairs were in *Waukesha* (4 pairs) and *Sauk* (5 pairs—MB). In Minnesota this species is infrequently found in summer so single males near Savage (DB *et al.*) and Cedar Creek N.H.A., (JH) is significant. Minnesota had its first nesting record for the Wilson's Warbler. Six singing males heard June 13 in *Lake* was followed with the June 29 sighting of a pair of adults feeding three flightless young out of the nest (SW). Canada Warblers continue to be found s. of their range. In Minnesota it was located at Cedar Creek N.H.A., (JH) and for Wisconsin locations included *Jackson*, *Milwaukee* and *Waukesha*. Perhaps a reevaluation of this species' range boundary, plus that of certain other passerines, is in order.

ORIOLES THROUGH SPARROWS—A. W. Meadowlark near Duluth June 7 represents one of the few n.e. Minnesota records. The Orchard Oriole continued a modest increase in Wisconsin with ten reporting counties. Another remarkable sighting this summer was of the **Lazuli Bunting** heard and seen June 3 by Tiebout at Mead W.M.A., Portage Co. This represents Wisconsin's third record, all hypothetical owing to a lack of photographs and/or specimen. Dickcissels were exceptionally abundant in certain sections of the Region. This included s. Minnesota and a considerable portion of Wisconsin (26 counties). Michigan had sightings only in *Newaygo* and *Macomb*. Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches were present in average numbers in Wisconsin. However the Pine Siskin maintained its 1980 pattern of exceptional scarcity. By contrast Red Crossbills were present in above-average numbers in the n. half of the state. The White-winged Crossbill, including some family groups, was found in *Lake* and *Cook*, Minn. Lark Buntings were found in Minnesota's *Traverse* June 4 (KE), *Lac Qui Parle* June 7 (KE) and *Rock* June 21 (RJ). Exceptional was the discovery of two singing ♂ **Baird's Sparrows** July 9 at the Felton prairie, *Clay*, Minn. (KE). More extensive coverage of suitable habitat in Minnesota turned up an impressive number of Le Conte's Sparrows—42 in *Wilkin* and 60 in *Clay* (KE), plus an unusually s. sighting in *Stearns* (RJ). Wisconsin had sightings in five counties and Michigan in two. The Sharp-tailed Sparrow made news in Wisconsin. One was heard July 2 at Powell W.M.A. (RSp). However most unusual were at least three males in *Winnebago*, where 4-6 had been found in 1979. The birds were present from late May until mid-July (AC). This year 65 Chestnut-collared Longspurs were heard/seen at their usual nesting site in *Clay*, Minn. (KE). In addition a pair was discovered in *Traverse*, and a lone male in *Big Stone*.

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/Vernon M. Kleen

The 1980 breeding season was very hot and dry for the most part, but scattered June thunderstorms were devastating in some areas such as southern Illinois. The weather was often compared with the heat and drought of the mid-1930s, and made it difficult for birders to muster up initiative to do any birding at all.

Although the drought caused many areas to dry up, it apparently had little effect on the nesting success of marsh-dwelling species such as terns, herons and shorebirds. The species some thought suffered the most during the three bad winters demonstrated positive (if small) signs of recovery. There were few surprises from nesting species, and range extensions (both north and south) were well-documented. For most birders, the highlight of the season was the return of the shorebirds—which arrived at record-breaking early dates.

The amount of data submitted for the 1980 report surpassed even those of the record-breaker in 1979. This success is due to the excellent coordination of data by the subregional editors and the timely submission of reports.

As usual, all extraordinary sight-records must be thoroughly documented at the time of observation. For the breeding season, 77 forms were received: Indiana—39, Iowa and Illinois—10 each, Missouri—6, Ohio—5, and Kentucky—1. In addition, 14 photographs were received. All documented records have been denoted by a dagger (†); specimens by an asterisk (*).

As a reading aid, the following abbreviations have been used in the text: O.W.R.—Ottawa Nat'l Wildlife Ref., O.; S.C.R.—Squaw Creek Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Mo, Spfld.—Springfield, Ill.



LOONS THROUGH IBISES—A regular complement of Com. Loons lingered, a few summered: two at Clear L., Ia. (*vide* JD); and singles at Olney, Ill., and in Crawford County, Ill. (LH). Two Eared Grebes were still present at Willow Slough, Ind., June 3 (RM_y). A W. Grebe was observed in Clay County, Ia., June 5 (†JD). Nesting Pied-billed Grebes were located in 5 states and good breeding success was recorded; at least 13 broods were present at L. Calumet, Ill. (RB). White Pelicans began appearing in the w. by early July and reached a mid-July max. of 128 at Forney L., Ia. (BW); three appeared in Madison County, Ill., July 16 (*vide* BR). The Double-crested Cormorant colony at Thomson, Ill., increased to a welcome 38 nesting pairs this year; a single pair raised two young at Rend L., Ill. (RZ); 12 summered at Forney L., (m.ob.) and 1-3 were present at 5 other locations into June. Eight Great Blue Heron colonies were reported from Illinois, one large one (297 nests) from Ohio and none from the other states. The incursion of Little Blue Herons was just beginning at the season's end; 220 adults and 127 immatures were present at the Madison County, Ill., colony July 12 (LW *et al.*); 35 were noted at Aldrich, Mo., July 23 (CBo). Cattle Egrets nested for the first time (13 nests) at the heronry in Mason County, Ill. (RB_j); more than 250 birds were at the Bertram, Mo., colony (PH) and about 90 (including 15 immature) at the Madison County colony (PS *et al.*); the species was not yet widespread at the end of the season. There were only five heron colonies in Illinois containing Great Egrets (max., 39 nests); no colonies were reported from other states. There were at least two Snowy Egret nests in the Madison County heronry, but 13 birds were noted at nearby Horseshoe L., July 14 (PS); several birds summered in the O.W.R. area and the species was encountered in July at two w. Missouri locations. There were seven Black-crowned Night Heron colonies reported; five in Illinois and one each in Kentucky and Iowa; the largest colony comprised 224 nests (Mason County, Ill.); 33 immatures were reported from Gary, Ind., June 8 (KB). Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported from 8 locations (5 states) including nests at Lexington, Ky., (DC) and Warrick County, Ind. (†JCa); all other reports occurred in July and only in Peoria County, Ill., (max., 16 birds—VH) and at L. Calumet, Ill., were more than four birds found (eight birds—RB). When appropriate habitat was available

et al.) were the first recorded in Indiana since 1925.

WATERFOWL—A pair of Mute Swans had four young at Springfield, Mo. (CBo); singles were noted at Waukegan, Ill., June 22 (JL) and Murphysboro, Ill., May 30 (K). The Canada Goose was an abundant breeder in Clay County, Ia.; 50-60 pairs with young were reported from the Jasper/Pulaski W.M.A., Ind., and broods were reported from at least 6 Illinois locations. Two White-fronted Geese were still present at Forney L., June 21 (FM). Six Snow Geese summered at Forney Lake (m.ob.) and one in Champaign County, Ill. (RC). Several Black Ducks summered in the Chicago area (RB) and singles or pairs were noted at 4 other Illinois locations and one in Iowa. Gadwall summered at several L. Erie marshes; 18 was the maximum at 1 location. There were 4 June/July records of Pintail (singles or pairs). There were a few pairs of Green-winged Teal summering in the L. Erie marshes and 40 at the mouth of the Maumee R., in late July (ET); a brood of five was present at Batavia, Ill. (RM); fall arrivals began appearing in early July. There were 5 or 6 breeding locations for Blue-winged Teal in Illinois. Fifty Am. Wigeon were present at the Cedar Point W.M.A., O., June 21 (J); there were singles at other Regional locations in early June. It was another good season for nesting Wood Ducks. A brood of Redheads was observed in Erie County, O., in July (J). There were small numbers of Ring-necked Ducks, Canvasbacks, Greater Scaup (only one), and Lesser Scaup at various Iowa, Illinois and Ohio localities. Single Com. Goldeneyes were reported from L. Calumet July 4 (JL) and Chicago July 24 (JL). A Bufflehead summered at Chicago (m.ob.) and another was present at Spfld., June 21-22 (H). Ruddy Ducks bred successfully in at least 5 n. areas (Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio). Small numbers of Hooded Mergansers were encountered; breeding was noted at Springfield, Mo. (L) and O.W.R. (m.ob.). There were three June records of Red-breasted Mergansers; the bird at Cleveland summered and another bird was found at Chicago July 24 (JL).

DIURNAL RAPTORS—Up to 14 Mississippi Kites were present in Ballard and Hickman counties, Ky., June 19-20 (ABa *et al.*); only two birds were noted in Missouri and regular numbers in s. Illinois. A nest of Sharp-shinned Hawks was successful in

and searched, Least Bitterns were found in good numbers. There were 3 scattered reports of Am. Bitterns in Ohio; a pair at Batavia, Ill. (RM_o); and at least one at L. Calumet (JL). The arrival of White Ibises (all immatures) was first noted in Bollinger County, Mo., July 8-15 (†PS); another appeared at L. Shabbona S.P., Ill., July 23-27 (WS *et al.*); and the two at Patoka, Ind., July 27 (CMi *et*

Wayne County, O. (LRo). At least five Cooper's Hawks' nests (one fledged six young and another four young) were active in Cook County, Ill., (RCo); there were two definite nests in Summit County, O., and a possible nest in Will County, Ill. Red-shouldered Hawks were reported from all states and nesting in Kentucky (three nests), Iowa (one nest), Illinois (two nests), and Ohio (two nests); isolated adults were noted from several other localities. There were two successful Broad-winged Hawk nests in n.e. Illinois and two or more probable successes there as well as in Kentucky, Iowa and Ohio. A single Swainson's Hawk was noted near the (former?) nesting colony site in n.e. Illinois (RM); three individuals were reported (routinely) from w. Missouri. Five pairs of Bald Eagles (three nests with eggs) successfully fledged three (plus one transplanted) young along L. Erie (LV); one young fledged from a Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill., nest (but not without enduring some problems—including the loss of the nest-tree from a storm); a possible nest near L. DePue, Ill., may have been responsible for the immature observed in the area July 3 (MR); an adult was recorded in Jackson County, Ill., June 6 (JG). The 3 July records of Marsh Hawks were encouraging: Warrick County, Ind., July 1 & 10 (†JCa); Columbus, O., July 27 (*vide* J); and s. Cook County, Ill., July 20 (WM). Single Ospreys were reported from 5 locations in 4 states—as far s. as Jackson County, Ill. Thirty Am. Kestrels were present at L. Calumet, Ill., July 27 (JL).

GROUSE THROUGH COOTS—Young Ruffed Grouse were noted at Atterbury Fish & Wildlife Area, Ind., June 13 (BGi) and at L. Monroe, Ind., July 6 (KB). The Illinois Greater Prairie Chicken flock witnessed a 55% gain since 1979—possibly because of the mild winter last year (RW). The Bobwhite population has also witnessed a population gain—at least 17% throughout Illinois (JE1). King Rails were reported from only 5 locations. Young Virginia Rails were present in n.e. Illinois marshes and the species was present in 3 of 7 marshes surveyed in Kane County, Ill. (RM). Several Soras were observed at S.C.R., July 20 (L); they were present in 3 of the 7 Kane County, Ill., marshes surveyed in June (RM); young were found at L. Calumet (RB), and birds were noted in 2 Iowa locations in July. The Black Rail in Lucas County, O., June 15-23 was exciting for local observers (†J, m.ob.). Nesting Com. Gallinules were reported from five n.e. Illinois marshes (at least 12 broods at L. Calumet); at Gary and Decatur, Ind.; and probably in L. Erie marshes of Ohio; nesting was suspected in 2-3 other locations. The Am. Coot was an abundant nesting species at L. Calumet (more than 20 broods) and elsewhere in n.e. Illinois and n.w. Iowa; more than 100 birds summered at L. Forney, but nesting was not documented.

SHOREBIRDS—Several fall migrants arrived rather early and were hard to distinguish from the late-departing spring migrants. From one to eight Am. Avocets were fall migrants at 6 locations in 4 states beginning June 29 (at Cleveland—TL). Semipalmated Plovers first appeared July 5 (Chi-

ago—JL) and were regularly encountered by mid-July in 3 states. Two ad. Piping Plovers were near S.C.R., July 25 (†PS). A Hudsonian Godwit appeared at the O.W.R. by July 25 (JP). Single Marbled Godwits were detected at the mouth of the Maumee R., O., July 20-31+ and at L. Calumet, Ill. July 23-27 (JL). Five Whimbrels were reported—three in Ohio (July 20-31), one in Indiana (July 21) and one in Illinois (July 26). The interest in Upland Sandpipers (especially in Illinois) has produced more records; the species occurs only in isolated areas in “loose” colonies and was reported in 5 states—greatest numbers in Ohio and Illinois. The fall arrival of Willets was first detected at Spfld., June 29 (H) and Cleveland June 26 (TL); they had arrived at 3 other locations by mid-July (max., five at any location). Spotted Sandpipers with young were reported from 5 Illinois locations. A Ruddy Turnstone made a July 7 appearance at Gary, Ind. (KB) and July 27 (3) at Huron, O. (J). The first breeding record for Wilson’s Phalarope in Ohio was established at the O.W.R., when a nest with 4 eggs was located; a second nest may have been present (ET); the species may have bred in Dickinson County, Ia.; migrants were present at L. Calumet by July 12 (JL) in Madison County July 10 (PS *et al.*) and elsewhere by July 27-31 (m.ob.). Breeding Com. Snipes were recorded for Lucas County, O. (m.ob.); migrants (breeders?) were noted in n.e. Illinois in late June, and several Iowa locations in July. More than 100 Sanderlings were present at Waukegan, Ill., July 24; singles were there June 6 & 22 (JL); one was present at Waterloo, Ia. July 26 (†FM). Small numbers of Stilt Sandpipers began appearing (all reports were from Illinois) by mid-July—but one arrived as early as June 28 at Spfld. (H). A Reeve was present at Chicago’s Meigs Field July 5 (JL).

GULLS AND TERNS—Small numbers of Great Black-backed Gulls summered at various L. Erie locations; one immature was noted at St. Mary’s, O., July 23 (CMA). About 300 Herring Gulls summered at Chicago; at least 20 young were present at the L. Calumet colony June 21 (RB)—the colony is no longer on an island because it has become overgrown. The **California Gull** documented and photographed at Indianapolis (†TK) July 19 constitutes the first record for Indiana. More than 700 Ring-billed Gulls summered at Chicago while the colony at L. Calumet approached 5000 birds (with 700 young noted June 21—RB); three immatures summered at Spfld. (H); 11 individuals were still present in St. Clair County, Ill., June 29 (A). Adult Laughing Gulls were present at Cleveland, June 29 (†DHo); Maumee River, O., July 9 (**fide* LV); and Michigan City, Ind. July 4 (SJ); another individual was found at Huron, O., in July (TL). One or two Franklin’s Gulls were detected at 5 different Illinois and 3 Iowa locations throughout June or July; 20 were present at Forney L., June 6 (TBr) and 34 at St. Joseph, Mo. June 1 (L). Forty Bonaparte’s Gulls were at Cleveland during June and several hundred had arrived there by the end of July (DHo); ten were at Indiana Dunes, Ind., June 11 (SJ); and 2-8 at Waukegan or Chicago June 22-July 24 (JL). An imm. Little Gull was detected at Cleveland July 24 (DHo). There were several probable nestings of Forster’s Terns in Clay and Palo Alto counties, Ia., during June (JD); the species was still present at Spfld., June 16 (H)—but fall arrivals were detected in Illinois by June 22, July 4 and thereafter; and at Huron, O., by June 23 with a max. reaching 200 by July 17 (TL). Ohio’s only colony of Com. Terns—at the Maumee R.—consisted of 350 pairs and produced 147 young (LV);



Arctic Tern, Huron, Ohio, July 27, 1980. Photo/Don Tumblin.

fall migration had begun by the end of June. Ohio’s first **Arctic Tern** was documented and photographed at Huron July 27 (†J *et al.*). Although there were no nesting reports of Least Terns, the species was encountered as singles and pairs at 6 Illinois (one inland), 1 Iowa, 1 Indiana (inland), 2 Missouri, and 2 Kentucky locations mostly in June; one Kentucky observation recorded five birds (JEr). There were no nesting reports of Caspian Terns, but a few summered at Huron, O. (TL); the fall migration was well underway by mid-July, and had begun by late June in some areas. The Black Tern was found nesting in several marshes along L. Erie and three n.e. Illinois locations; at least one summered in s.w. Indiana (†CMi); fall migration was readily observable by mid-July in Missouri, Illinois and Ohio.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS—It was a good year for nesting Mourning Doves, in contrast to 1979. The 1979 abundance of Yellow-billed Cuckoos carried over into 1980 in most areas; a nest with two young was still active at Olney, Ill., Aug. 28 (LH). Black-billed Cuckoos were less common than in 1979 and rather scarce in many of their n. haunts. Six pairs of Barn Owls produced 28 young at the Killbuck W.M.A., O., (*fide* JF); nesting success was recorded in s.w. Indiana (CMi), near St. Joseph, Mo. (JW), and Springfield, Mo. (*fide* JW); one bird was seen twice in s. Mills County, Ia. (RS). A “remarkable” increase of Screech Owls was reported in n.w. Ohio—12 nests in 50 boxes, one nest of which fledged seven young (LV). Indiana established its third record for **Burrowing Owl** when one was noted July 12-31+ in Lake County (†m.ob.). Long-eared Owls attempted unsuccessfully to nest in Wayne County, O. (LRO). Short-eared Owls failed in their nesting attempt in Lucas County, O. (*fide* LV); however they were successful in Warrick County strip mines (†JCa) for the first Indiana success since 1938, and the farthest s. ever recorded there. The first confirmed nesting record of **Chuck-will’s-widows** was established in Indiana’s Willow Slough, June 7-13 (DA) when eggs and young were located; nesting was suspected in Illinois’ Sand Ridge S.F. (RBj) and Iowa’s Waubonsie S.P. (RS)—eight birds present at the latter location in mid-July. Some observers believe that Com. Nighthawks are in trouble—declines were reported from several areas. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were scarce practically everywhere. Pileated Woodpeckers held their own or increased slightly in n. areas—especially n. Ohio. Red-headed Woodpeckers were found in expected numbers—and do not



California Gull, Eaglecreek Reservoir, Ind., July 19, 1980. Photo/Timothy C. Keller.

belong on the Blue List in this Region. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker nest in Ashtabula County, O., June 20 (CJ) represented a rare occurrence for Ohio.

FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS—Eastern Kingbirds were found in greater abundance than in most years. All of the W. Kingbirds were found in w. Missouri. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher appeared at St. Joseph, Mo., June 4 (L). A Say's Phoebe nest was found in Plymouth County, Ia., July 4 (TSi). "In the n.w. Porter County (Indiana) breeding bird census, *Empidonax* flycatchers occurred in good numbers: eight Acadians in various mature woodlands, seven Leasts in the open woodlots, 25 Willow and ten Alder in marshy areas or mixed shrubs; all were calling regularly until the second week of July" (SJ) The Willow Flycatcher was reported in normal numbers Regionwide. Both Alder and Willow flycatchers were present in Lucas County, O., throughout the period; there are no confirmed breeding records of the former species—therefore, the 3 territories established are noteworthy there (J). The territorial Least Flycatcher in Scioto County, O., June 7 was noteworthy; normal numbers occurred in n.w. Ohio; singles were reported in Wolfe County, Ky., in late June (DC); Chicago June 6 (JL); and Aurora late June (RM); an apparent migrant had returned to Spfld. by July 10 (H). Tree Swallow colonies are gaining footholds farther s.: 80 pairs in Ballard County, Ky. (ABa) June 18-19; and 100 (birds) in St. Charles County, Mo., June 25 (PS); they experienced an excellent nesting season in n.e. Illinois; 1200 migrants were reported from Cedar Point N.W.R., O., July 18 (J). Several Bank Swallow colonies were reported—including 36 holes at the Ba Hai Temple grounds in Evanston, Ill.; 350 birds were encountered at Cleveland July 24 (DHo). Cliff Swallows were nesting under an overpass in Wolfe County, Ky. (8 nests) June 26 (DC) which is one of several statewide colonies (*vide* S); in Nashville, Ind., local people have protected a small colony under the eaves in a shopping mall by placing "do not disturb" signs in the area. Purple Martins remained low in numbers as a breeding species; 231 birds were color-banded in the Barrington, Ill. area (TC) and 37 were captured that had been banded there during the past 2 years; migrant roosts included 5-10,000 birds in Jefferson City, Mo., July 3-31 + (JW); 500 at Chicago, July 26 (JL); and 450 at Columbus, O., July 17 (J).

CROWS THROUGH WRENS—Small numbers (1-3) of Fish Crows were encountered along the Ohio R. as far e. as Paducah, Ky. The Tufted Titmouse population remained below normal in many areas—but demonstrated positive signs of recovery; one clutch of eight birds was successfully fledged in Coles County, Ill. (LH). Nesting was suspected for Red-breasted Nuthatches in the Sand Ridge S.F., Ill. (RBj); two young were raised in Findley S.P., O. (JP); and, singles summered at Cleveland (M) and Dayton, O., (*vide* CMa). A successful nest of Brown Creepers was recorded in Coles County, Ill. (LH); the species was suspected of nesting in 2 n.e. Illinois locations and 1-3 Sangamon County, Ill., locations; and

possibly nesting at Morgan-Monroe S F, Ind., and 3 n. Ohio areas. There were three territorial Winter Wrens in Geauga County, O., June 27 (J). Bewick's Wrens were "more abundant than usual" in Texas and Dent counties, Mo., as several were noted throughout June (DHa); young fledged from a Brown County, O., nest (J); and one bird was encountered at Macomb, Ill., May 30-June 3 (EF). There were still only a few Carolina Wrens—but a slow comeback is being experienced (m.ob.). Good numbers of both Long-billed and Short-billed marsh wrens were encountered in appropriate settings.

MIMIDS THROUGH STARLINGS—There has been a modest gain in Mockingbird populations—more so in s. areas. Robins were common and in above-normal numbers in some areas. Single Swainson's Thrushes were detected at Madisonville, Ky., June 5 (JH) and Davenport, Ia. July 27 (P). The breeding status of Veeries is improving and the species is expanding its range S into areas such as Delaware County, O. (J) and Bainbridge, Ind. (DZ); 27 individuals were tallied in n.w. Indiana in June (SJ). Positive signs were reported for nesting E. Bluebirds but they are far from experiencing a noticeable recovery; one Ohio bluebird trail had 18 pairs and produced at least 104 young. Few Cedar Waxwings were reported as nesting; migrants had returned by July 24 to Waukegan, Ill. (JL). A Loggerhead Shrike nest in Winnebago County, Ill., was the first there in 10 years (LJ); the species was routinely encountered in most areas, but often only sporadically. Is there regional evidence of a declining Starling population? The species was so-noted on more than one U.S. F.&W.S. Breeding Bird Survey.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS—There is some information for practically all species. White-eyed Vireos have continued to expand N in Illinois, Iowa and Indiana (m.ob.). A nest of **Bell's Vireo** at Paducah, Ky., established a first such record in the state; the species was widely scattered in Iowa, Illinois and Indiana and there was a successful nest in Lucas County, O., providing the second confirmed Ohio nesting record (m.ob.). A nest of **Solitary Vireo** in the Sand Ridge S.F., Ill., failed for the second consecutive year (RBj); the first nest (including young) for Indiana was noted in Brown County S.P., May 29-June 9 (†KH); 5 territories were located in Geauga County, O., June 27 (J) and one bird was noted in Hamburg, Ia., July 16. Successful nests of Black-and-white Warblers were reported at Shades S.P., Ind., June 18 (ABr) and Mundelein, Ill., June 8 (JN); the species was encountered in July at 2 other n. localities. The only Swainson's Warbler reported anywhere was in Ballard County, Ky., June 19 (ABa). A June census of Shades S.P., Ind., produced at least 21 pairs of Worm-eating Warblers; the species was also noted at Wildcat Den S.P., Ia., June 14 (TSh). Territorial Golden-winged Warblers were reported from 3 n. Ohio counties (including at least one successful nest (JP, ET), and from n.w. Indiana (SJ); one bird was present at St. Joseph, Mo., June 8 (L). Nesting Blue-winged Warblers ranged as far

n as Cook (4 locations) and Lake counties, Ill. (KO); 2 Iowa counties (RD, RMy); and n Ohio. Two Brewster's Warblers were holding territories: Tippecanoe County, Ind., (DA) and Seneca County, O. (ET). The two Lawrence's Warblers reported were paired with Blue-winged in Hocking and Lorain counties, O. (JP). The June 28 presence of Tennessee Warblers in both Columbia, Mo., (†BG) and Sweet Marsh, Ia., (FM), were unexpected; so was the one at Magee Marsh, O., July 6 (J). The "Sutton's" Warbler in Tippecanoe County, Ind., remained until at least June 30 (DA). The three July records of Black-throated Green Warbler were from Lucas County, O. (no date, ET); Spfld., July 26 (†H); and Columbia, Mo., July 4 (†BG, m.ob.). A pair of Blackburnian Warbler territories was identified in Geauga County, O., June 27 (J); a single bird was detected in Hocking County, O., June 28 (JP). The 8 n Ohio and 3 n.e. Illinois reports of territoriality or summer presence of Chestnut-sided Warbler indicates a gradual s. range expansion. The June 30 presence of a Bay-breasted Warbler at Spfld. was unusual (†H). Small numbers of Prairie Warblers summered and/or nested in isolated n. Illinois and Ohio counties. A pair of N. Waterthrushes was noted in Lorain County, O., throughout the period (JP). New breeding locations were reported for Kentucky Warblers in n. Ohio and n.e. Illinois. Lingering Mourning Warblers were regularly encountered in early June, but the one at Spfld., June 19 was quite late (†H). Yellow-breasted Chat was found in expected numbers and locations—and was increasing in some areas, notably in Ohio Hooded Warbler was found regularly in small numbers in n.e. Illinois counties Illinois' first nest of **Canada Warbler** was found at Joliet (JO); 9 territories of this species were reported from Geauga County, O.,—one fledgling was also noted—June 27 (J).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS—Eastern Meadowlark is still scarce in many areas, but "back to normal" in parts of Kentucky. Young W. Meadowlarks, rare in the state, were found in Lucas County, O. (ET); the species remains scarce in much of its range. Owing to the species' special interest, the number of Yellow-headed Blackbird reports was encouraging; two returned to the Cedar Point N.W.R., O. (J); nesting occurred in 1 n.w. Indiana and 8 n.e. Illinois locations; a pair also nested near Fulton, Ill (BS); the Iowa population experienced greatly reduced numbers at traditional locations but some birds moved to upland areas for nesting (FM); usual encounters were reported from w. Missouri. Thirteen Orchard Orioles were found in Seneca County, O., June 20 (J). The N. (Baltimore) Oriole was found in good (increasing) numbers in many areas. The Summer Tanager population in Ohio is gradually expanding N. The number of Blue Grosbeaks encountered n. of expected distribution was noteworthy; observers in all 6 states reported an increased or expanded population; the successful nest in Adams County, O., represented a rare state occurrence (*m.ob.); Indiana's second confirmed nesting occurred at the Atterbury F.&W. Area (BGi). Varying comments were received concerning

the Dickcissel population—however, there were more negative (scarcities, declines, sparse distribution) than positive (located in areas not present in past years, appeared in good numbers).

Three breeding pairs of Purple Finches produced eight young in Lorain County, O. (JP); another nest was noted at Akron, O. (CT). A House Finch lingered at Louisville into early June (*vide* S); five summered at Dayton, O. (*vide* CMA); normal numbers occurred in n. Ohio. A Pine Siskin was encountered in Lucas County, O., June 13 (TBa). At least 24 Red Crossbills summered at the Sand Ridge S.F., Ill. (RBj); four were present at Indiana Dunes S.P., June 11 (SJ). The most intriguing comment about Savannah Sparrows concerned their consistent use of interstate cloverleaves in c. Illinois (H). Bachman's Sparrows were found along parts of the Mississippi R. (Kentucky side) June 14 (JEr). The only comments concerning Grasshopper Sparrows were that there have been no further population changes and in Kane County, Ill., they were present in about half of the appropriate habitats surveyed (RM). Henslow's Sparrows were reported from several Ohio and n. and e. Illinois locations; there was a maximum of only five birds

per location. A possible increase in Vesper Sparrows was suggested for e. Illinois owing to the change from ten (1979) to 43 (1980) birds on one Breeding Bird Survey route in Piatt and McLean counties (RC). Dark-eyed Juncos were found at 2 Geauga County, O., locations June 27—a fledgling bird was noted at 1 location (J); one bird was reported from Cherokee, Ia., June 7 (DB). A Clay-colored Sparrow was maintaining a territory in s.e. Cook County, Ill., through late June (*vide* RB). Field Sparrows remained in low numbers. As in 1979, two or three White-throated Sparrows remained at Evanston, Ill., into July (RB); another was present near St. Charles, Ill., during June (RM).

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION /Jerome A. Jackson

Records for heat and lack of rainfall were broken in many mid-south areas. During July and August some locations had fifty or more consecutive days of 90°F+ temperatures, including ten or more days of 100°F+. Similar conditions prevailed to the north, and may have contributed to the early appearance of many shorebird species across our Region. Lack of tropical storms contributed to a successful nesting season for many seabirds, but Least Terns had a disastrous season in Mississippi. Birds failed to return to some colonies and others suffered from apparent pesticide poisoning. On the other hand, a number of pesticide-prone species seem to be making a comeback in previously DDT-contaminated regions of north Alabama.

Other highlights of the season include documentation of further range expansions by Whip-poor-wills, Tree Swallows, Cliff Swallows, House Wrens, House Finches, and Song Sparrows. On the negative side is further evidence of Red-cockaded Woodpecker decline.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES—A Com. Loon in breeding plumage stopped over at the Hattiesburg sewage loons (hereafter, H.S.L.) June 9 and was heard calling at dusk (TF). Other singles were seen all summer in imm. or winter plumage at Gulf Shores (JVP, VF) and near the Mississippi Gulf Is. (JAJ). A breeding-plumaged Eared Grebe was at H.S.L. June 4 (TF). A single ad. Pied-billed Grebe spent most of the summer at the Pascagoula R. marsh (hereafter, P.R.M.) (JAT), and an adult and 13 young were seen at a fish farm in Lonoke County, Ark., July 26 (H&MP, BSh, RC). A Greater Shearwater

seen at Pensacola Beach was a rare find July 7, the fourth record for n.w. Florida (VF, *vide* WV); an unidentified shearwater had been seen 10 mi s. of the beach on the previous day (RD).

More than 60 White Pelicans made a brief visit to P.R.M. June 19 (JAT, Lo & FC). An imm. Gannet feeding within 200 m of Romar Beach, Baldwin Co., Ala., July 20 furnished a very early record (R&LD). There were several contenders for the "Booby" prize this summer: Masked Boobies were seen at Dauphin I. (three immatures June 14, one immature June 29, RH), Romar Beach (one subadult, one immature, July 20, R&LD), Santa Rosa I. (one immature July 21-22, R&LD), and Navarre Beach, Escambia Co., Fla., (one July 21-22, R&LD). Single Brown Boobies were at Dauphin I., in July (TH) and at Romar Beach July 20 (R&LD, BH). As usual, a few Double-crested Cormorants frequented Eufaula N.W.R. all summer (BO, DC).

On July 13 RWL and CDC counted 60 ad. and 58 imm. Green Herons on islands at Wheeler Res., Ala. During the season 103 young were banded; fledging rate was reported high early in the season, but low later. Approximately 1200 ad. and imm. Little Blue Herons and up to 1400 Cattle Egrets



were s. of Dyersburg, Tenn., July 24-Aug. 14 at a roost that was not used in 1979 (WGC). In Noxubee County, Miss., the Little Blue Herons and Cattle Egrets were missing from the old Cliftonville heronry and also from the nearby site they used in 1979. Large numbers of both species were in the surrounding counties and a few hundred nested at Noxubee N.W.R., though a large heronry has not yet been discovered in spite of aerial searches (JAJ). Four red- and one white-phase Reddish Egrets were seen on the beach at Gulfport July 24 (JAT), a large number for a species not yet known to nest in the state. A single Louisiana Heron appeared inland at H.S.L. July 20 (TF, DH). Black-crowned Night Herons nested successfully again (50+

nesses) at the Bordeaux heronry near Nashville (Nashville T.O.S.), and a new Black-crowned heronry (30-35 nests) was discovered along Mill Creek at Nashville (A&DP, JM). Yellow-crowned Night Herons nested successfully near the causeway at Mobile (MF) and again at Noxubee N.W.R. (JAJ). Five imm. Yellow-crowneds were at H.S.L. July 21 (TF, DH), and one immature was at L. Millwood, Howard Co., Ark., July 27 (CM).

Two all-dark ibises appeared at Petal, Miss., July 21 (TF, DH). July records for White Ibis in Alabama included two immatures at L. Martin, Tallapoosa Co. (B,S,&AO), one immature in Bibb County (GDJ, DGJ, TJ), and three immatures at Wheeler N.W.R. (RWL). The Bibb County bird was very tame, allowing approach within 4 ft even though it could fly. It was once observed eating watermelon! In Tennessee, single White Ibises were seen in n.e. Shelby County July 16-Aug. 4 (DPh, LCC), and at Reelfoot L., July 16 (D & GM); 40 to 103 roosted in the s. Dyersburg heron roost July 24-Aug. 14 (WGC).

WATERFOWL—Mallards continued to appear in summer throughout the Region, and the first nest for Faulkner County, Ark. was discovered (DMJ) and two birds were seen at Mobile July 30 (GDJ). Mottled Ducks seemed to do well at P.R.M.: 20 adults and seven young were seen June 7, and nine young, including six "downies" were present July 26 (JAT). Three Blue-winged Teal were at Mobile July 30 (GDJ) and an ad. Wood Duck with three young was discovered at P.R.M., July 24 (MH). Ruddy Ducks (one male, four females) summered at H.S.L. (TF, DH).

RAPTORS—There were numerous summer records of Swallow-tailed Kites at H.S.L. (TF, DH) and in Ascension Parish (JA, BSa, *vide* RSt). Two pairs of Mississippi Kites were seen on the D'Iberville B.B.S. route, Jackson County, Miss. (JAT) and several were seen in Forrest County, Miss. (TF, LG, DH), including six flying over the business district at Petal Aug. 9 (TF). Single Mississippi Kites were found at Tishomingo S.P., Miss., June 18 (TF), and near Spring Hill, Ala., June 15 (GDJ). At least one pair of Red-tailed Hawks was in residence in Jackson County, Miss. (JAT). Red-shouldered Hawks were reported from several areas in Mississippi (JAT, JAJ) and from Lonoke, Grant, and Dallas counties in Arkansas (MP, E&HH). A pair of Broad-winged Hawks was spotted in Marion County, Miss., June 4 (LG, TF), and singles were found in Jackson County, Miss., June 1 (JAT) and Little River County, Ark., June 16 (CM). Ospreys returned again this year to nest in the same areas of Round, Horn, E. Ship, and Cat Is., in Mississippi Sound, as well as to the Escatawpa R. marsh n. of Pascagoula. There were approximately 40 nests, equally divided between the mainland and Gulf islands. All nests had been destroyed by Hurricane *Frederic* last year, and new ones were generally built in the same or nearby trees (JAJ). An Osprey was also present at Gulf Shores where the species has nested in past years, but no nest was confirmed this year (VF, *vide* LT). Inland, Ospreys were sighted at L. Purdy near Birmingham (HT, AM, RS, HW) July 29 and Swan Creek

W M A, Limestone Co., Ala., July 23 (RWL). As usual, one spent the summer at Eufaula N.W.R. (BO, DC). Reports of Am. Kestrels came from throughout the Region, including nests at Pass Christian, Miss., (JAT) and Jonesboro, Ark. (ELH), an unusual record for n.e. Arkansas.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS—Purple Gallinules nested successfully at Marsh I. Golf Course, Jackson Co., Miss., where two adults and three downy young were seen June 22 (JAT). American Coots summered at H.S.L. (12—TF, DH) and in Evangeline Par. (42—BO, DC) although no nests were discovered. Within a 3-day period, July 24-26, Piping Plovers were seen at H.S.L. (TF), and in Hempstead (CM) and Lonoke (H&MP, E&HH) counties, Ark. Ten Black-bellied Plovers in New Orleans July 22 established an early Fall record (NN), but on the Mississippi coast a few apparently spent the summer (TF, DH, JAJ).

An Am. Woodcock at Spring Hill, Ala., June 12 produced a rare summer record for the coast (GDJ, DGJ). The first June record of a Com. Snipe at Nashville was established by a bird found the 14th (DV); there was a July record in 1977. Four early Whimbrels appeared at Romar Beach, Ala., July 20 (RD). An ad. and one young Spotted Sandpiper were at Nashville June 21, the fourth local record (DV). Two were seen at Tupelo June 4 (BBC, LCC). One early migrant appeared at L. Millwood, Hempstead Co., Ark., July 16 (CM) and 15 were at P.R.M., July 26 (JAT). A solitary Solitary Sandpiper at New Orleans July 23 may represent the earliest fall record for the area (NN). Willets appeared inland at H.S.L. July 2 (TF), L. Millwood, Ark., July 9 (19 birds) and July 13 (one bird) (CM, TW), and at L. Purdy, Ala., July 20 (HKi, HW, AM), A Greater Yellowlegs at the Bonnet Carre Spillway, La., July 14 represents an early state record (MW). Another early bird was the Pectoral Sandpiper: one at Santa Rosa I., July 12 (FW, H & EB), four at H.S.L. July 17-18 (TF, DH), five at Mobile July 29 (GDJ), and a whopping 370+ on a well-watered football field at Starkville, Miss., July 29-30. The Starkville flock increased to 650+ in early August and remained in the area for several days (JAJ, BJS, DBM).

Other early sandpipers included a Long-billed Dowitcher July 16 at Mobile (TI), Stilt Sandpipers at Nashville July 1 (D&PCr), P.R.M. July 24 (MH), L. Purdy July 27 (HW, AM), and Mobile July 30 (GDJ), and five W. Sandpipers at Nashville July 8 (D & PC). American Avocets were at P.R.M. again this year (22 on July 24, MH), and Black-necked Stilts nested again at both P.R.M. and in Evangeline Par. At least 24 adults and one immature were at P.R.M. July 24 (MH), and 51 adults, 14 young, and 2 nests were found at Miller's L., La., June 5 (BO, DC). A Parasitic Jaeger at Dauphin I., July 19, DPA, *vide* LT) would provide a good record since this species does not normally arrive until September, but no details were furnished. Some unusual Larids showed up at H.S.L. this summer: a Laughing Gull June 6 & July 20 (TF, DH), an ad. Franklin's Gull June 6 (TF), and a possible imm. Black-legged Kittiwake Aug. 4 (TF, DH) [Fair details, but brief observation—Ed.]. At least

8 pairs of Gull-billed Terns nested on the spoil island w. of Petit Bois I. (JAJ) A Forster's Tern was also seen at Eufaula N.W.R., June 28 (DC), and six appeared at L. Millwood July 13 (CM). A few Com Terns nested on the spoil island w. of Petit Bois I. (JAJ) and about 12 nests were found on a disturbed area at the Dupont plant on Bay St. Louis (RL). Five Com. Terns visited H.S.L. Aug. 4 (TF).

S.A.

After a population buildup in recent years following the establishment of protected nesting areas, Least Terns on the Mississippi coast had a disastrous year. The terns had returned to nesting colonies in Gulfport and Pass Christian and established a new colony at the w. end of Deer I. The Long Beach colony site was deserted A visit to band tern chicks in Gulfport midway through the nesting season revealed hundreds of dead and dying chicks (JAJ, JAT, BER). The quivering, glazed-eyed, older chicks lacked motor coordination and seemed to be showing classic symptoms of pesticide poisoning. Samples were collected and analyzed for organochlorines and heavy metals: negative results. Chicks were checked for bacterial or viral infections: negative results. Even red tide was considered. Heat was also suggested, but the birds were found dying before the unusual extreme temperature arrived. By comparing brain enzyme levels of healthy chicks from Ship I. with those of dying chicks, U.S.F.&W.S. biologist Don White found evidence of organophosphate or carbamate pesticide poisoning. The main concentration of affected chicks was at the Gulfport colony immediately across from the Broadwater Golf Course. A few Deer I. chicks were also affected: Pass Christian chicks and Ship I. chicks were not. The source of contamination and the specific chemical involved have not been identified.

To add to the plight of the Least Tern, none nested on the spoil island at the w. tip of Petit Bois I. Two thousand pairs nested there last year. A colony of about 30 pairs tried to nest near the w. tip of Petit Bois, but were unsuccessful, probably as a result of raccoon predation. The only positive tern report is that of a new colony including an estimated 500 nests along a 4 mi stretch of beach at Ft. Pickens, Fla. (RD, RB, B&GP). They set up housekeeping where dunes had been flattened by Hurricane *Frederic*. A lone Least Tern was seen at Hattiesburg July 28 (TF, DH), as if escaping the chaos on the coast.

Sandwich Terns and Royal Terns nested in much greater numbers on the spoil island w. of Petit Bois I. this year. On May 26, 4126 Sandwich and 451 Royal Tern nests were counted (JAJ). Black Terns were frequently seen throughout the summer in congregations of 100 or more on the ends of the Mississippi barrier islands (JAJ). A few showed up inland: one at Eufaula N.W.R., June 28 (DC), 14 at H.S.L., June 8 (TF), and up to 14 at H.S.L., July 21-27 (TF, DH, LG) and five at L. Millwood, Ark., July 25 (CM). Black Skimmers seemed to have a good nesting

season all along the Gulf. By actual count there were 328 nests on the spoil island w. of Petit Bois I. (JAJ, BER). Another 110 pairs nested in the Least Tern colony at Gulfport. Only a few of their chicks had hatched when the massive kill of Least Tern chicks occurred, and none seemed affected (JAJ). At Ft Pickens, Fla., 30 nests were estimated along 2.5 mi of road (RD, B&GP, RB), and in New Orleans skimmers nested on the roof of the Lake Forest Plaza Shopping Center (NN). A single skimmer appeared at H.S.L. Aug. 3 (TF).

CUCKOOS THROUGH SWALLOWS—Two summer records for Black-billed Cuckoos were unusual for the Region: one found dead June 26 at Jonesboro produced the first summer record for n.e. Arkansas (CB, EH); another seen July 24 at L. Seminole, Jackson Co., Fla., provided the first July record for that area (MG). Barn Owls nested again this year in Escambia County, Fla., but lost their young (BW, CLK). A single Barn Owl was seen on Dauphin I., July 20 (*fide* LT).

Ben and Lula Coffey have worked for several years documenting the s. limits of Whip-poor-wills in the mid-South. New Arkansas records included single birds, May 27-28, 5 mi n. of Forrest City, one mi e. of Colt, 2 mi e. of Colt in St. Francis Co.; one mi w. of Levesque and 5 mi n. of Levesque in Cross Co., and eight birds between Ark. Hwy 351 & 141 in Craighead Co. In Mississippi they found Whip-poor-wills 3 mi s. of Independence, Tate Co., and at Bridgetown, DeSoto Co., on May 25. Whips were also reported in Hot Spring County, Ark., June 11 (H & MP). Special efforts in Alabama have revealed summering Whip-poor-wills in Tallapoosa, Chambers, and Lee counties—details to be published elsewhere (BO, GH, RHM).

Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were seen at Open Pond in Conecuh N.F., Ala. (GDJ, DGJ). At Noxubee N.W.R., the Red-cockaded had a poor season. Only 8 active colonies remain of 23 that have been active within the past 5 years. Of these, only 5 produced young this year. Major problems have been tornadoes, southern pine beetles, and understory development (JAJ). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers continue to pop up e. of the Mississippi, but no more nests have been pinned down. An adult was seen at Murfreesboro, Tenn., for the third summer in a row (AH) and another appeared at Petal, Miss., June 5 (TF). Tree Swallows nested at L. Conway, Faulkner Co. (TB, DMJ, AJ, MJ, RHa) and at Big Lake W.R., Mississippi Co., Ark., (EP, BMO). They also showed up early (July 26) at the Bonnet Carre Spillway, La (RSt, MW).

Now that Barn Swallows have essentially bridged the gap between n. and coastal populations, we can focus on another rapidly expanding species—the Cliff Swallow. While Barn Swallows seemed to expand in orderly fashion down our highways, the expansion of Cliff Swallows has been more erratic, crossing wide gaps in unpredictable directions, but predictably becoming established as nesting species at major river crossings and reservoirs. Reports of colonies this year come from the bridge across Brown's Creek near

Guntersville, Ala., (CDC) and the Toad Suck Lock and Dam on the Arkansas R., in Faulkner Co., Ark. (DMJ, AJ, MJ, RHa). In Mississippi, Cliff Swallows were reported nesting at Sardis Dam, Panola Co.; Belmont bridge, 5 mi down the Little Tallahatchie R. from Sardis Dam, Panola Co.; Enid Dam, Yalobusha Co.; U.S. 51 bridge over the Yocona R., near Enid dam; the bridge over the Skuna R., on the Graysport-Coffeeville Road in Yalobusha Co; the bridge on the Graysport Road over the Yalobusha R., in Grenada Co.; Grenada Dam and nearby bridges; Arkabutla Dam, Desoto and Tate cos.; and the Mississippi Hwy 25 bridge over Yellow Cr., at the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway abomination (BBC, LCC). In Louisiana, 2 nests were found on the Kayo Bayou bridge, Cameron Par., apparently the first nest record for the state (MBE).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH WARBLERS—White-breasted Nuthatches, rare permanent residents in Bay County, Fla., were observed feeding young near Panama City June 21 (GT). A Brown Creeper was seen June 14, and two were found July 17 in Nashville; there is a previous nesting record from the area (JAI, JMc). A House Wren June 19 at Ft. Pillow S.P. makes Lauderdale County the fourth county in w. Tennessee with this species in summer (BBC, LCC). Increasingly rare within the Region, Bewick's Wrens were reported at Hillsboro, Ala., June 13 (CDC) and a nest with four young was found in Dyer County, Tenn., July 21 (WGC). Yellow-throated Vireos were seen in Jackson County, Miss., June 1 (JAT) and at Mobile June 27 (GDJ). A nest was discovered at Tishomingo S.P., Miss. (TF). Swainson's Warblers were heard in Grant County, Ark., June 4 (MP), Tate County, Ark., July 4 (R & BPe), and in Turner Swamp, Shelby Co., Ala., June 2 (GDJ). A Blue-winged Warbler at H.S.L. July 21 was an early arrival for the area (TF). Four Yellow Warblers were seen at H.S.L., June 8 and three were in the same area July 22-28 (DH, TF). Two-to-four were also found at Mad I., in Memphis, May 31-June 29, e. of the species' normal range (BBC, LCC, MWa). A Blackburnian Warbler was present at Tishomingo S.P., Miss., June 18 (TF).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES—The Great-tailed Grackle colony at Miller's L., in Evangeline Parish has grown: at least 196 males and 50 females were seen (BO, DC). Two ♂ and 2 ♀ Bronzed Cowbirds were at feeders in Reserve, La., the fourth consecutive summer there for the species (RSt, MW). At least 10-12 pairs of Painted Buntings nested at H.S.L. (TF, DH, LG) and two first year males were singing as if on territories in Santa Rosa County, Fla., June 9, but neither females nor nests could be found (BM, *fide* OF). Both sexes were seen all summer at the Mobile causeway, but no nests found (MF). Single **House Finches** were seen during the summer at 2 feeders in Decatur, Ala., (RWL) and Columbus, Miss. (RW) and will no doubt soon be nesting in the area. A **Pine Siskin** at Farville, Craighead Co., Ark., established an inexplicable first July record for the state (C&NL). Two Grasshopper

Sparrows were seen and heard at Ft. Pillow Farm, Lauderdale Co., Tenn., June 19 (BBC, LCC), and an adult feeding young was found June 9-21 in n.c. Dyer County, Tenn (WGC). A lone Seaside Sparrow among yucas in the Least Tern colony at Gulfport June 28 was miles from appropriate habitat. Fifty to 70 Seaside Sparrows at Hoetown Bayou in Walton Co., Fla., June 14-17 was the largest colony found during a survey for the species (HKa). An astounding 41 singing Bachman's Sparrows along the d'Iberville B.B.S. route must make Jackson County, Miss., and the Bachman's Sparrow capitol of the world (JAT). Sometimes the accommodations are just too good—a White-throated Sparrow remained at Petal, Miss., until June 8+ (DH, MHa). Last but not least, the Song Sparrow also seems to be moving S; five were singing at the Gallatin Steam Plant in the Nashville area (D&PCr), one was heard at Decatur, Ala. (CDC), and several were singing near Guntersville (CDC) and Huntsville (DMB)

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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

/J.B. Gollop

Temperatures in June varied from normal in the southeastern part of the Region to 2°C above in the northwestern; in July the entire Region had normal temperatures. Owing mainly to late rains, precipitation in June was from half normal to normal in extreme southern Manitoba and southern Saskatchewan; Alberta experienced torrential rains, and up to three times the normal amount. July rainfall ranged from one-quarter average in southern Manitoba to normal north and west across the Region.

In July southern Alberta had 18% fewer ponds than in 1979, southern Saskatchewan was down 63% and southern Manitoba down 55%. The July pond count was the fourth lowest in 20 years. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Canadian Wildlife Service).

There appeared to be more birds than usual out of their normal June-July ranges, possibly associated with drought and warm weather as well as record forest fires in the north.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS—Churchill monopolized the loon records: Com. were up (BAC), the first Yellow-billed for the area was in breeding plumage June 26 and was adequately described (AR). Arctic Loons were migrating June 8; >2000 were seen in 2 hours and there were probably 5 times that number through the day; at least 2 broods of three young each were seen in July. About 20 Red-throats were caught in a gill net July 7 (BAC). At Redberry Lake, Sask., White Pelicans raised 160 young, the most since 1966, and Double-crested Cormorants produced 63 young, the highest number in 25 years (C&MH). A Great Blue Heron June 15 at Churchill furnished the second record for the area (YA). Manitoba hosted two Green Herons at Birds Hill P.P., near Winnipeg, June 17-July (RM'C,KP,m.ob.), and an imm. Little Blue Heron July 22 at Delta (CWC,JS). A Great Egret flew overhead at Stewart Valley, Sask., June 12 (CGH) and an ad. Snowy Egret was seen at Last Mt. L., June 1 (CJ,GV,BD). There was a Cattle Egret at High River June 18 (*vide* RB).

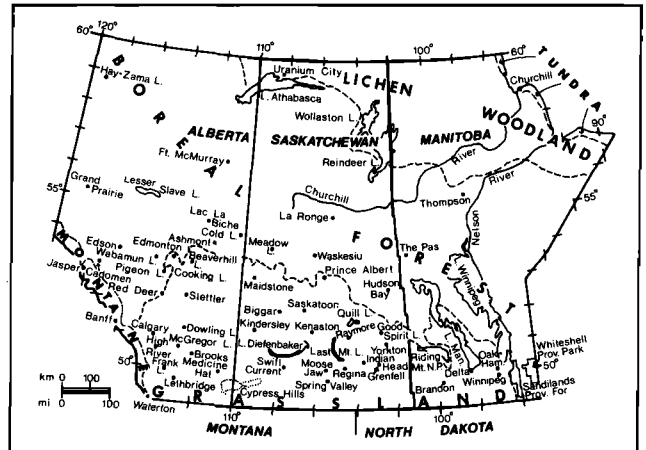
DUCKS THROUGH HAWKS—Duck production in the s. Prairies was substantially down from 1979 (U.S.F.&W.S. & C.W.S.). A Black Duck brood July 4 near Watson was a rarity for Saskatchewan (WCH,SML). Churchill may have had an influx of some birds because of dry conditions in the s.: more Gadwall and Blue-winged Teal than usual; the first record for Canvasback, a brood of two, then one, July 5-11, >350 mi n. of where the species usually breeds; in the order of 5000 Com. Goldeneye at one time in June, and >100 Com. Mergansers June 8 (BAC,FC). Other rarities for Churchill included two Ring-necked Ducks June 12 (YA) and lone birds June 22 & July 8 (DRMH,DFa), and a ♂ Harlequin June 15, July 5-6 (ET,WN,BAC,RFK). Five Greater Scaup were reported on Chitek L., Sask., June 20 (MIC).

Buteos are seldom reported in flocks in June but this year they were noted on 3 dates:

20 and 52 on June 14 near Saskatoon were mainly immatures and there were more Swainson's than Red-tailed (JBG); 11 ad. and imm. Red-tailed were noted June 15 near Moose Jaw (ROH,SJT,MAR) and all of 29 that were identified at Markinch, Sask., June 18 were ad. and imm. Swainson's (MAG). Swainson's Hawk production was down in Saskatchewan both in terms of nest success and young per nest (C&MH). In both Saskatchewan and Alberta, Ferruginous Hawk production was down from 3.3 ± young per successful nest last year to 2.6 this year in 40 nests (C&MH,ARS). Golden Eagles produced seven young in Saskatchewan where there was only one in 1979 (C&MH). Marsh Hawks were definitely down this year in the Calgary area (JBS). Around Loon L., Sask., only 5 of 19 Osprey nests were successful compared to 12 of 21 last year (C&MH). In a 3-km-long coulee near Matador, Sask., four pairs of falcons were nesting; two Merlins and a kestrel in magpie nests and a Prairie on the cliff (C&MH). An imm. Peregrine at Stone-wall, Man., July 23 was a rarity for the summer (KAG).

RAILS THROUGH TERNS—Churchill recorded its first Virginia Rail, heard June 27, 29, 30 & July 3 (RFK,BAC). Both Soras and Yellow Rails were up significantly there, possibly owing to drought in the s. (BAC). Approximately 25 Soras were estimated in 5 mi of marsh near Warburg, Alta., June 28, where there had been no more than two last year; three Yellow Rails heard near St. Albert was also a large number June 22 (GRAE). Two broods of Am. Coots July 6 at Churchill were >250 mi n. of their main breeding range (BAC). A flock of >140 Long-billed Curlews was found s.w. of Saskatoon July 27 (JBG) and a rare Whimbrel was sighted near Moose Jaw June 28 (PRK). Long-billed Dowitchers may be more regular than once thought at Churchill; they were recorded June 17 & 29 with a maximum of five July 8 (BAC). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were more common than usual in spring through s. Manitoba and continued to be so at the start of fall migration: 14 birds July 25 and eight on the 26th near Winnipeg and 10 on July 26 at Oak-Hammock (RFK,GEH,SH). An exceptionally large flock of 1500 ± Marbled Godwits occurred at Stirling, Alta., July 9 (PS). Near Big River, Sask., two pairs of avocets were on territory June 15 & July 13, just beyond their known breeding range (WCH,RMi). Three Manitoba rarities included: a Black-necked Stilt at Delta June 10-July 31, the Province's fourth record (GLP,CWC); a Red Phalarope at a Winnipeg sewage lagoon July 20 & 21 (GEH,m.ob.), and up to four Pomarine Jaegers at Churchill June 8-11 (RMe,BAC).

Gulls were the big news in Manitoba. There was a rare Glaucous Gull near Winnipeg July 27-28 (SH,RFK). Glaucous, Iceland, Great



Black-backed, Herring, Ring-billed, Bonaparte's and Sabine's were seen at Churchill (BAC). Mew Gulls nested there for the first time, far e. of their published range, a predator took 3 eggs from one nest ca. July 3 and nothing was laid in another (RMe,DM, BAC,FC). Churchill also recorded a **Black-headed Gull** July 11 & 27 (BAC,DFi), up to three Little Gulls June 11-12 & 23 (DMa, BAC,YA), a **Black-legged Kittiwake** June 11 (DMa,BAC) and the prize of the season—breeding **Ross' Gulls**. Three nests were found; Fred Cooke and Bonnie Chartier will publish details on them separately in this issue. As many as four Com. Terns were also seen at Churchill June 24-25 & July 19 (YA, AC,BAC,PL).

PIGEONS THROUGH WRENS—Saskatchewan's third **Band-tailed Pigeon** near Mortlach June 28-29 was adequately described (BF) and its fifth **Barn Owl** in Regina June 10-12 was photographed (RK,m.ob.). Great Horned Owl production was down in Saskatchewan, based on 115 young banded in 64 nests (C&MH). A Hawk Owl nested farther s. in Manitoba than previously recorded at least one nestling June 15 at Whitemouth L., (DG) and an immature <10 mi away near Vassar June 9 (*vide* RWN). Short-eared Owl populations were low in the s. half of each province but were up at Churchill where 12 were seen June 25 (BAC). A Boreal Owl July 24 at Churchill was several mi from the location of the spring sighting (T&LL). Common Nighthawks were low at Edmonton and in Saskatchewan (PA,JBG). A Red-shafted Flicker was seen June 25 at Churchill (BAC) Red-headed Woodpeckers did well in s. Manitoba (HWRC) and their first confirmed nesting in Saskatchewan occurred in the Lumsden cemetery; unfortunately the partly dead tree was cut down July 18 with three young still in it (BL,RK,m.ob.). Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers s. of their known range nested in Manitoba (30 mi n.w. of Winnipeg, early June, RMe) and were found in Saskatchewan (Duck Mt. P.P., June 16, RK,AM). Alder Flycatchers are becoming more regular at Churchill with the species being heard June 15 & 29 (four birds) & July 3 (DMa,AG,BAC). As many as 90% of the martins at Buffalo Pound L., Sask., may have been poisoned by a bloom of blue-green algae (*Anabaena*); ten adults were found dead in one yard, as well as all the nestlings in one house and 40 adults around another

group of houses (EWK,LMK). One of the very few Blue Jay records for Churchill was provided by a single bird July 6 (RFK). Evidence is rare of White-breasted Nuthatches breeding in Saskatchewan, but there were 2 records for this period: an adult feeding two young at Good Spirit L., June 29 (W&JA) and young at a feeder in Moose Mt. P P , the week of July 20 (RD). A concentration of 30 Short-billed Marsh Wrens in 1.5 mi of marsh near St. Albert, Alta., June 22 was probably the largest in Alberta (GRAE). Four ♂ Rock Wrens were on territory June 16 near Unity, Sask., n. of their main breeding range (ARS).

MOCKINGBIRDS THROUGH WARBLERS—The most northerly of three Mockingbirds was near Prince Albert June 5 (BCG,LAB). In or near Winnipeg single Wood Thrushes were reported June 3 & 9 & July 29 (GEH,DK,JZ). A Gray-cheeked Thrush in Calgary July 1 was at an unusual location for that time of year (MS). A ♂ Mountain and ♀ E. bluebird raised broods of three and five young near Lyleton, Man. (JLM). Fifty-nine pairs of Mountain Bluebirds had a record 26 successful second nestings and produced 324 young around Saskatoon; the first broods were unusually well synchronized (C&MH). Sprague's Pipits were up in s. Alberta and around Winnipeg (JBS,HWRC). Starlings were up at Churchill (BAC) while Tennessee Warblers were down both in s.e. Manitoba and in the s. boreal forest in Saskatchewan (PT,WCH,SML). The first documented nesting of a **Nashville Warbler** in Alberta resulted in one and possibly three young being fledged ca. 10 mi s w of Calgary (GW,RL). A rare Black-throated Blue Warbler was singing 60 mi n. of Hudson Bay June 19 (WCH,SML). A territorial ♂ **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in mid-June in the foothills near Lodgepole was a rarity (MH,AW,PS,ET). At least six singing Blackburnian and two singing Chestnut-sided warblers were found at Cold Lake, out of their published breeding ranges, June 13-15; they were also there in 1979 (PA). June 25 was an unusual date for a Connecticut Warbler to be in Edmonton (PA).

BOBOLINKS THROUGH LONG-SPURS—It was an expansion year for Orchard Oriole in Saskatchewan. A pair through the summer at Oxbow indicated nesting in an area where it rarely but regularly breeds (HP). Then a female was found taking food to a nest ca. 10 mi n.e. of Moose Jaw July 1 (D&PH,m.ob.), followed by a nest with two young 7 mi n.w. of Saskatoon July 14 (SJS,m.ob.). In all three cases the male was in immature plumage, as was the female seen at the n. end of Last Mt. L., June 1 & 3 (GV,BD,D&PH). On July 31 a pair of W. Tanagers, possibly wanderers, appeared in Edmonton (PA) and one n. of Hudson Bay June 19 was e. of its recognized breeding range (WCH,SML). In May a pair of Cardinals was found in Saskatoon; while the female was not seen subsequently, the male was reported almost daily through June and July (PO'N). Still further n.w. a male was reported from Turtle Lake, Sask., June 8 (MIC). A very northern Indigo Bunting was heard and seen ca. 20 mi e. of Prince Albert

July 7 (BCG). Both an Evening Grosbeak July 24 & 27 and a Dark-eyed Junco July 1-3 appeared out of place in Moose Jaw (GAZ). Pine Siskins were up over last year across the s. prairies but no nesting was reported (JBS,JBG,HWRC). Several flocks of Red Crossbills were unusual in Winnipeg during June and early July (JL,PAH,RFK) as were four birds at Oxbow, Sask., July 17 (HP). Lark Buntings were much more common in s.c. Alberta June 24-26 than usual (ARS) but the birds reported near Saskatoon in May apparently disappeared in June (JBG) and those at Last Mt. L. were not seen after early July (BD). Single Grasshopper Sparrows were reported n. of their known breeding range near Hanna, Alta., June 25, and Unity, Sask., June 13 (ARS); they were also reported to be more common than in previous years in extreme s.e. Manitoba (PT). Baird's Sparrow showed a big increase in the Calgary district (JBS,BB) but was reported as a rarity at Oak-Hammock July 19 (one bird) & 25 (two)—(GEH,NJC,IAW). Two other species far n. of their published breeding ranges were a Brewer's Sparrow and several ♂ Chestnut-collared Longspurs on territory near Unity, Sask., June 16 & 13, respectively (ARS). Seven Chestnut-collareds were still further n. at Turtle Lake, Sask., July 27

(MIC).

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/Esther M. Serr

The Region was so drought-stricken that observers compared the conditions to those of the '30s, and some hinted that they might be the worst of the century. When rains fell on small areas, the amount was too little or too late to help.

Waterfowl and shorebirds abandoned nests as ponds dried up. Dry-land birds were most successful—there have never been so many reports of double broods.

There was some indication that certain species shifted nesting localities from uplands to lower, moist areas. In spite of the heat, observers made trips around their respective states and reported excellent observations.

S.A.

Misfortune plagued Broadview Marsh, n.w. Billings, Mont., because of both the marsh's location in Comanche Basin and a low-water condition that caused botulism. In the beginning of this century, a high-voltage transmission line was built through the basin when the area was very dry and no marsh existed. Heavy snowmelt during the last few years created a sump area, without an outlet, and caused the greatest water accumulation since the '20s. As other areas dried up, the birds flocked to Broadview. By June 20, 792 birds of 32 different species had collided with the power line (U.S.F.&W.s.). By June 23, a botulism outbreak began and another 3000 birds perished. In the last 3 years, 63,000 birds have died from botulism at this marsh, so the power line losses were minor in comparison (CMC).

GREBES, IBISES—Twenty young Horned Grebes were observed in Marshall County, S.D., July 23 (LLW). An estimated 10,000 Eared Grebes were nesting at Freezeout L., Mont., (LMM). A White Pelican colony produced 114 young at Willow Lake N.W.R., Rollette Co., N.D., (CAF). Waubay N.W.R., S.D., had a 17.6% increase of White Pelicans and an 860% increase of Double-crested Cormorants over 1979 (LLW). Freezeout L. had a big increase of 200 Cormorant nests compared to 30 nests a few years ago (LMM).

Two Little Blue Herons, 30 Cattle Egrets and four each of Great and Snowy egrets were believed to be in nesting colonies June 9 at Sand Lake N.W.R., Columbia, S.D., (WAS). Low water and heavy marsh grass made it difficult to check nesting activity. Three Cattle Egrets and a Snowy were sighted at Broadview Marsh June 17 (HWC,BBF,RF). One Yellow-crowned Night Heron was seen at Sand Lake N.W.R., June 1 (WAS). During July, 21 White-faced Ibis (no young mentioned) were counted at Bowdoin N.W.R., Malta, Mont., (TWP).

WATERFOWL—Low water cut goose and duck production at least in half. Wood Ducks seemed to have the best nesting in the puddles with tree limb entanglements.

HAWKS—Adult Goshawks were seen in Custer County, Black Hills, S.D., June 4 (JAH,RH) and in the Bull Mts., Mont., June 5 (HWC). A female with four downy young was an exciting find in the Bearpaw Mts., s. Havre, Mont., (SJJ).

Many more nest observations for Accipiters, Buteos and Falcons were submitted this season than in the last 5 years. The

Swainson's Hawk still seemed to be in trouble in most of the Region, yet 19 nests were found in n. Blaine County, Mont., and 15 Ferruginous Hawk nests were located in the same area (AE). A pair of Golden Eagles in a cliff nest fledged two young, June 20-July 2 near Edgemont, S.D., (WH). The Marsh Hawk was doing well in reclaimed coal mining area where grazing was prohibited near Beulah, N.D., (DPK). A Merlin nest with 4 eggs provided a first-known nesting record for Bowman County, N.D., (TAG,DWT) and 6 Merlin nests were found in n. Blaine County, Mont., (AE,PDS).

GALLINACEOUS SPECIES, RAILS—A ♂ Ruffed Grouse was very aggressive in the Turtle Mts., Bottineau Co., N.D., June 7 (GBB). A brood of nine Sharp-tailed Grouse established a first-known record for Grand Forks County, N.D., (JFK). Sage Grouse production was down in e. Montana (MWA) but six females and seven young were seen in the Bowman County, N.D., area, June 3-5 (DOL,SOL).

Ten young Soras in two broods were seen at Rolla, N.D., July 5 (JJM). Three Yellow Rails were heard along the Sheyenne R., Sheridan County, N.D., in a new location June 25 (CAF).

SHOREBIRDS—Water-level was reduced in lagoons at Grand Forks A.F.B., and at Fargo, N.D., and created ideal shorebird habitat. In less than 100 acres near Grand Forks there were 21 species totalling some 10,000 birds. Three ad. and one young Piping Plover furnished the first-known breeding record in the L. Agassiz Plain at Fargo Sewage July 2-20 (MAB,CAS,FJC). Successful Piping Plover nests were watched through the period in w. Clay County, S.D., (B. Lemons, *vide* WH) and at Ft. Peck, Mont., (CMC).

Two Red Knots were seen at Grand Forks A.F.B., July 25 (JFK). Several broods of Mountain Plovers were at the C.M. Russell N.W.R., Fergus Co., Mont., June 14 (HWC). Fifteen Buff-breasted Sandpipers were observed at Grand Forks, N.D., July 31 (GSL).

GULLS AND TERNS—Two hundred flightless young California Gulls were at Chase L., Kidder Co., N.D., June 11 (WJB) and 470 nests were found in n.w. Divide County, N.D., (KJW,KLC). Six imm. Herring Gulls were sighted at Oahe Res., S.D., July 19 (RCS) and a second-year bird was at Broadview Marsh, Mont., June 16 (HWC). Franklin's Gulls numbered 1000 at Grand Forks, July 24 (DOL) and 7000 in Kidder County, N.D., by July 30 (CAF).

Seven nesting pairs of Forster's Terns were noted in Sheridan County, N.D., June 24 (CAF). Thirty-four young Com. Terns were banded mid-June at Freezeout L., Mont., (LMM) and 120 nesting pairs were found on an island in L. Sakakawea, N.D., (BRP). Black Terns nested in fairly good numbers in spite of low water. By July 5900 had gathered at Moberge, S.D., (WH) and 600 were seen at Grand Forks July 24 (DOL).

A Black-legged Kittiwake was unusual at the disturbed Broadview Marsh, Mont., in June (J. Hammerick, *vide* CMC).

CUCKOOS, OWLS—A pair of Yellow-billed Cuckoos was feeding a fledgling in Dickey County, N.D., June 15—one of two nesting records in the state (DWC, JPO, m.ob.). Two Yellow-billed nestlings were full-feathered July 20, Burke L., S.D., (GLS). Black-billed sightings were scarce in the Region.

A family of five Screech Owls was closely studied at Highmore, S.D., June 10 (JHH). Sightings of Burrowing Owl with young were numerous over the Region. There were 13 sightings on area poisoned for prairie dogs July 23 in Jackson and e. Pennington counties, S.D., (RDM,EMS). One Short-eared Owl was sighted in n. Hill County, Mont., June 23 (SJG); one was at Jamestown, N.D., June 10 (CAF) and another in Grand Forks County July 27—very scarce (SOL). Two Barred Owls were in Pembina County, N.D., June 14 (GSL) and one in the same area July 12 (JFK).

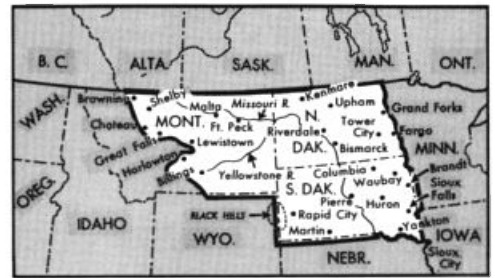
GOATSUCKERS, PICIDAE—A Poorwill nest with 2 eggs was found in the Missouri R. Breaks, s. Blaine Co., Mont., July 1 (SJG). Several were calling in w. Slope County, N.D., June 4 & 5 (DOL). There was heavy flocking of imm. Com. Nighthawks July 20-26 along the e. edge of the Black Hills, S.D., (BMN,FMB)—the largest flock of 300 occurred at dusk over Spearfish, S.D., (DLB).

A pair of White-throated Swifts was feeding five young June 25-July 1 near Edgemont, S.D., (WH). One was seen in s. Blaine County, Mont., July 9 (SJG). A juv. Chimney Swift was believed to be among three birds July 29 at Malta, Mont., (DMP). A count of 30 was taken w. of Yankton, S.D., July 29 (JEW).

Three Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were observed June 1 and one July 24 in Fargo, N.D., (AJL). Singles were in n. Moody County June 9 (LIW) and Burke, S.D., July 31 (GLS). Four Rufous Hummingbirds were fighting in the air over Gilia flowers, w. Rapid City July 30. The distinct red collar was noted and photographed. Long-time observer, L.M. Baylor felt confident of a Calliope in his Rapid City yard July 23.

Three pairs of Lewis' Woodpeckers raised 11 young on Deadwood Hill, (burn area) Black Hills, during the period (DLB). Two were seen in the Bear Paw Mts., s. Blaine Co., July 1 (SJG). A juv. Red-bellied Woodpecker was banded at Newton Hills S.P., S.D., July 25 (GCR).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—A Cassin's Kingbird was sighted in the Bull Mts., n. Billings, Mont., June 5 (HWC). An E. Phoebe was carrying food under a bridge in Stanley County, S.D., July 19 (RCS). Many Say's Phoebe sightings were reported. Nests and fledglings in Nelson and Barnes counties and s.e. Jamestown, N.D., showed the Say's has extended its range to the e. Willow Flycatchers were seen and heard more frequently in the e. half of both Dakotas. Three Olive-sided Flycatchers were in a brushy draw, s. Marmarth, Slope Co., N.D.,



June 3 & 4 (DOL) and one was singing near Jamestown June 12 (CAF). Independent young Horned Larks were feeding on gravel roads, s. Meade County, S.D., July 4 (NRW). Rough-winged Swallows took over the holes in concrete previously used by Violet-greens and the latter had to find new places to nest at Ft. Peck (CMC). Tree Swallows were abundant over North Dakota. Sixty-five pairs of Purple Martins were estimated to have raised 240 young at Burke, S.D., (GLS).

JAYS, WRENS—A Piñon Jay provided a first record for the Ft. Peck latilong, July 7 (CMC). A sighting of eight Clark's Nutcrackers in the Sweetgrass Hills, n. Liberty County, Mont., was interesting July 25 (HMM).

The White-breasted Nuthatch was very scarce except in the Red River Valley, with successful nests at Fargo and Grand Forks in June (CWC, SOL, DOL). Red-breasted Nuthatches have increased greatly. Two nests were located a few mi apart in Slope County, N.D., producing the first 2 definite records for the state (DOL,TAG,DWT). A nest with four well-feathered young was in a hollow pine stump in Custer S.P., S.D., June 16 (NRW). It was unusual to find a Red-breasted e. of the Black Hills at Burke July 19 (GLS) and to the n. in Harding County, S.D., June 8 (BR,JLB). A Brown Creeper was a rare sighting at Fargo, June 19 (GI0) and a pair nested twice in a barn s. of Rapid City June 13 (R. Kovarik, *vide* NRW). A Cañon Wren fledged five from a nest on a garage rafter July 1 at Cleghorn Canyon, Rapid City (DSM,BLG).

MIMIDS THROUGH SHRIKES—A pair of Mockingbirds raised 2 broods of four each in Dickey County, N.D., (DWC, m.ob.). A Mockingbird seemed very territorial, but no nest was found, in n. Blaine County, Mont., June 29 (SJG). An ad. Wood Thrush was banded June 11 at Newton Hills S.P., S.D., (GCR). Veery sightings in the Region were so numerous that an influx was assumed. A pair of E. Bluebirds was building over cold eggs in Hutchinson County, S.D., in June (RCS) and fledglings were noted at Lost Bridge, L. Sakakawea, N.D., (BRP). A Water Pipit was at a water fountain July 5 at Wakonda, S.D., (LAW). A Sprague's Pipit nest with eggs along with 11 other pipits were in a quarter section, July 4 in Mountrail County, N.D., (TAG,DWT). They were also recorded on grazed and idle alkali prairies of Grand Forks County (DOL,GSL,JFK). Western South Dakota was dubbed "abundant shrike country" (RAP).

VIREOS, WARBLERS—Warbling Vireos

were common in the Region and could be found in shelterbelts as well as natural woodlands. Thirteen Red-eyed Vireos were singing in Pembina County, N.D., (JFK).

A Black-and-white Warbler returned to Grand Forks July 14 (DOL). A N. Parula was heard in the Turtle Mts., N.D., June 28 (CAF). An Ovenbird nest was found in Little Elk Canyon, Pennington Co., S.D., June 4 (NRW). Northern Waterthrushes were abundant in the Turtle Mts., June 6 & 29 (GBB,CAF). A MacGillivray's was seen at Roughlock Falls, Black Hills, S.D., June 16 (NJH). There were eight Yellow-breasted Chats in one mi along a stream in w. Slope County, N.D., June 3 (DOL).

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES—A pair of E. Meadowlarks was in a wet sedge meadow in Kidder County, N.D., June 21-22 (CAF). Three pairs of Orchard Orioles nested at Ft. Peck at the edge of their range (CMC). Two W Tanager were found June 1-6 in s.w. North Dakota and one in the Sweetgrass Hills, Mont., July 25 in previously unreported areas. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak pair was unusual at Miles City, Mont., July 5 (TCH); five in a mile's walk were seen in s.

Clay County, S.D., (KJH) and a Black-headed X Rose-breasted was noted at Roughlock Falls June 16 (NJH). Two nesting pairs of Lazuli Buntings were seen along the Knife R., Mercer County, N.D., June 18 (DNS) and three pair were in Spearfish Canyon, Black Hills, in June (DLB).

SPARROWS—The recently-explored area of Liberty, Hill, Blaine and Choteau counties in n.c. Montana has changed the outlook on sparrows. When observers are able to get into National Grasslands, they find the dry-land species in good numbers. A Baird's Sparrow was discovered in Stillwater County, Mont., which extended the range to the s.w. (Harpers, *vide* PDS). Baird's moved from upland into normally wet sedge habitat in e. North Dakota (CAF). Sharp-tailed were common in c. and e. North Dakota thus supporting Stewart's theory in *Breeding Birds of North Dakota* that the species reaches its peak during drought years. Field Sparrows were found along the Sheyenne R., N.D., which seemed to be their present n. limit (DLK). Six ♂ McCown's Longspurs were skylarking on Rhame Prairie, Bowman Co., N.D., June 3 (DOL,SOL,GSL).

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/ Frances Williams

The excessive heat in the Region during the season was well publicized by the media but the heat bothered the birders more than the birds. From Eastern Texas, David Wolf wrote, "The great heat wave did not stop the local woodland birds from breeding successfully. Family groups and fledged young are concentrated along the creeks and other sources of water." From north-central Texas, R.D. Coggeshall wrote, "My observations indicate that the birds followed their normal summertime routine of foraging and singing early in the day." Kelly Himmel in western Texas wrote, "The lack of severe thunderstorms was a big plus for breeding birds. The wintering birds will be the ones to suffer, as there is almost no surface water and the grasslands are bare." From central Kansas, Scott Seltman wrote, "The birds have fared well. The lack of violent storms helped nesting arboreal species and ground nesters were successful as long as they provided eggs and chicks with shade."

GREBES THROUGH ANHINGAS—Two pairs of Eared Grebes with chicks were present in El Paso County June 17. In Kingfisher County, Okla., 4 nests of Pied-billed Grebes contained eggs June 16 and 2 broods of chicks were nearby. This species also fledged young in Osage County, Okla., and Lubbock County, Tex. A pair summered in Tulsa County although no evidence of nesting was seen. One imm. and two ad. Double-crested Cormorants were observed in Russell County, Kans., July 14. Olivaceous Cormorants nested for the third year in Kaufman County, Tex. A single Anhinga was sighted at Tulsa

several times in early June and two were seen June 28, providing the first summer record for the county.

HERONS—In Hemphill County, Tex., May 18, 6 Great Blue Heron nests contained 13 well-grown young. Although no nests were found, Green Herons summered in several widely scattered localities in the Texas Panhandle, and one was seen in Big Bend N.P., Tex., July 14. A pair of Green Herons spent the summer at Chet Ager Nature Center in Lincoln and in late June an immature was also present. This species was unusually abundant at Tulsa. There were numerous reports of Little Blue Herons in Sarpy and Douglas counties, Neb. At least a thousand were present at a Tulsa heronry in mid-July and four were sighted in Big Bend N.P., July 28. One at Midland July 19 was the first there since 1973.

—S.A.—

Near Fort Worth a heronry is located on high ground some distance from water and immediately adjacent to a residential area. During the last days of June and early July, when temperatures reached 113°F, the young herons from the colony emigrated to the yards of nearby houses where they clustered about water sprinklers and on shaded porches, seeking relief from the heat. The presence of 20 or 30 small white herons on someone's front porch provided an amazing spectacle. While the nearest yards bore the brunt of this invasion, there were several hundred young herons scattered over a square quarter of a mi. Some of the birds could not yet fly and the mortality was high when they attempted to cross busy streets. The species present were Cattle Egret, Little Blue Heron and Great Egret (RDC).

About 2000 Cattle Egrets inhabited the Tulsa heronry July 15. Two Cattle Egrets were found in Kingman County, Kans., June 10. A Snowy Egret in Rush County, Kans., July 23 provided a not unexpected first record. Louisiana Herons nested in Kaufman County for the third year, and one of the Louisiana Herons discovered at El Paso in the spring remained through June. The age of two juv. **Yellow-crowned Night Herons** discovered at Lincoln indicated they must have been hatched nearby, providing a first breeding record for Nebraska (*vide* MBO). A small colony of Yellow-crowneds in Lubbock County shifts location each year. This year it contained 6 active nests May 3. Two pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons nested at N Platte N.W.R., Neb. A Least Bittern nest with 2 eggs was discovered in Kingfisher County June 16. Least Bitterns were sighted at Fort Worth July 14 and Washington County, Okla., May 18 & 25. At least 12 Am. Bitterns were present at Quivira N.W.R., Kans., in July and an immature was seen July 16

IBISES, WATERFOWL—A single White-faced Ibis spent the summer at Midland. It was apparently healthy, as it flew strongly. A small group of White Ibises was present in Kaufman County July 29. A **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** at Quivira N.W.R., July 6, provided a second State record (R&JB). Seven Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were seen at Dallas July 29, where the first county record had been established May 10 (WP, *et a.*). At Crescent Lake N.W.R., Neb., a wild ♀ Trumpeter Swan joined the resident captive reared male and the pair nested. Mallards had produced ducklings by the first week of May at Lubbock and a brood at Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., was the first nesting there in more than 5 years. Pintails again summered in Crosby County, Tex., in good numbers,

but no young were seen. In Lubbock a N. Shoveler with six ducklings was observed July 27. Two Ring-necked Ducks summered at Lubbock.

KITES THROUGH FALCONS—A White-tailed Kite was sighted in Burleson County, Tex., July 12 (JY). Mississippi Kites flourished in towns, golf courses and shelter belts. At least two pairs nested in El Paso where they have been absent in recent years. Cooper's Hawks were present in Presidio County, Tex., all summer, Big Bend, N.P., July 13 and El Paso July 13. Observers in Oklahoma reported that Red-tailed Hawks were hard to find, but in n. Texas several nests with eggs or downy young were located in mid-April. A Broad-winged Hawk appeared in Crosby County on the early date of July 28. Swainson's Hawks nested in Tarrant County, Tex., for the first time and two downy young were in the nest June 7 (RDC). Swainson's Hawks were missing from most w. Texas Breeding Bird Survey routes (hereafter, B.B.S.). In Dallam County, Tex., a Ferruginous Hawk nest contained two young June 7. This nest had been occupied in previous years but not last year. A Gray Hawk was carefully identified in Big Bend N.P., July 24 (WEH). Six pairs of Black Hawks were nesting in the Davis Mts., Tex., in May and June. Because of the difficulty of access, the nests were not checked later to determine the degree of success (PE). In May, a pair of Marsh Hawks was sighted in Washington County, Okla., and two self-sufficient young hawks were observed in the same area July 25. A single Marsh Hawk was present near Tulsa July 29. A Caracara's nest in Kaufman County held two young July 2 (SR). A Peregrine Falcon hunted in alfalfa fields w. of Valentine, Tex., May 18 & July 18. Several traditional Am. Kestrel nest sites in Lubbock County were unoccupied this summer, but a pair again nested in the football stadium at Big Spring, Tex.

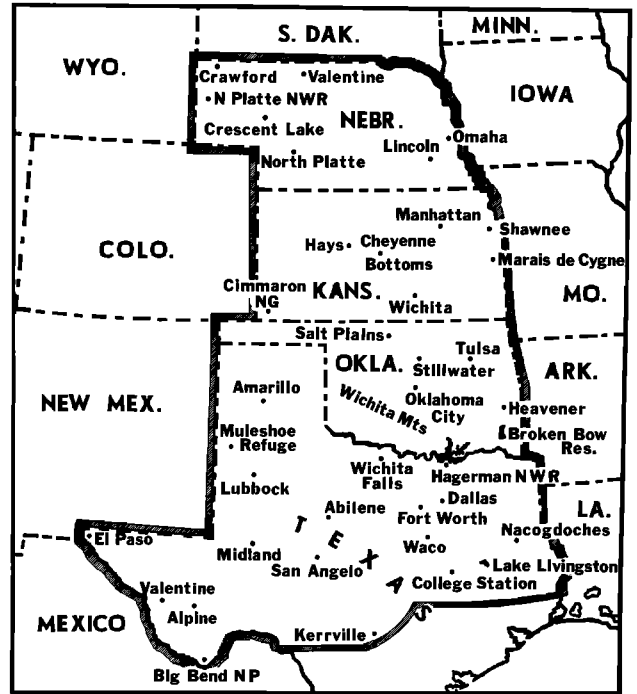
QUAIL THROUGH GALLINULES—A Montezuma Quail was sighted in the Chisos Mts., Big Bend N.P., June 23 (MW). This represented the first observation of this species in the park since 26 birds were released there in 1973 in an effort to restore the species to its original home (RL). A Virginia Rail called in a marsh in Hutchinson County, Tex., July 6. A late report revealed that a tape recording of a **Black Rail** was made in Hutchinson County July 1, 1979. The recording is on deposit at Texas A. & M. University (RB, *vide* KS). This constituted the first record since 1935 for the Texas Panhandle. Purple Gallinules were seen in Oklahoma in Kingfisher County May 25 (JSh) and Cimarron County June 9 (EW). A Com. Gallinule nest in Kingfisher County held 8 eggs June 16. Three Com. Gallinules were heard in Hutchinson County July 6. In Kingfisher County, 24 Am. Coot nests were found June 16.

PLOVERS THROUGH PHALAROPES—A high water-level was maintained at Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Kans., and only five Snowy Plovers nested there. At Quivera N.W.R., there were about 60 Snowy Plover nests. This species was found breeding in

Meade and Clark counties, Kans., but no estimate of numbers of pairs was submitted. At Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., July 4 there were 12 ad. Snowy Plovers and one chick, but the behavior of the adults led observers to believe more chicks or nests were nearby. Three downy Piping Plover chicks ran along the sandy shore of the Platte R., Saunders Co., Neb., in mid-June (TH). Three migrating Piping Plovers were noted in Republic County, Kans., July 13. In Presidio County, Tex., July 16. In Presidio County, 16 ad. Mountain Plovers and five chicks were present June 17. At the same location July 21 there were 29 Mountain Plovers, and 16 more on a neighboring ranch (PE). Mountain Plovers were also noted on B.B.S. in Hartley and Dallam counties, Tex.

During July, Am. Woodcocks were seen at 3 locations near Tulsa. As usual, Long-billed Curlews were widespread in the w. plains in July but one in Kaufman County July 2 was unexpected (SR). An ad. and chick **Spotted Sandpiper** in Cimarron County, Okla., June 13 provided the first breeding record in the State since 1911 (JSh). Three Sanderlings scurried along a playa shore near Lubbock July 27. A Sanderling was observed in Douglas County, Neb., July 17 and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen there July 31. Marbled Godwits were discovered in Stafford, Barton and Republic counties, Kans., during June (JS *et al.*). Two Am. Avocets visited Tulsa July 15 and one was at Fort Worth July 8. Most avocet nests in the Lubbock area were unsuccessful because the playas dried in the scorching heat of late June. At Quivera N.W.R., six adult and five young Black-necked Stilts were present in mid-July. Black-necked Stilt chicks were observed at Lubbock and Midland in late July and it is possible that the stilts which summered in Randall County, Tex., also bred, although no chicks were seen. An ad. **Wilson's Phalarope** with a downy chick in Carson County June 15 provided a first breeding record for Texas (KS).

TERNS—A flock of 20 Forster's Terns visited Tulsa July 26. An estimated 200 to 300 Least Terns summered along the Cimarron R. in s.w. Kansas and another 100 or more were at Quivera N.W.R. (JS). No estimate of the number of fledglings was available. Small numbers of Least Terns also nested along the Platte R. in e. Nebraska (TH). But along the Arkansas R. near Tulsa, heavy rains in May and early June submerged the sandbar where Least Terns nested in 1979. Caspian Terns were sighted near Tulsa in early June and late July. Good numbers of Black Terns were present during July at several locations, the peak being a flock of 60 in Osage County, Okla., July 26.



DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS—White-winged Doves experienced a population explosion in Jeff Davis and Presidio counties. A single White-winged Dove was found in Crosby County July 11. Groove-billed Anis visited Midland July 11, 12 & 26. Road-killed Barn Owls were found in Meade County, Kans., and Osage County, Okla. A very alive Barn Owl in Big Bend N.P., July 24 provided one of the few summer records there. At least eight Chimney Swifts twittered above Ogallala, Neb., May 2 (MRC).

In the Trans-Pecos area of Texas, extreme drought with consequent lack of wildflowers caused hummingbirds to concentrate at feeders in towns and at ranch homes. In addition to dozens of Black-chinned Hummingbirds, the following hummingbirds were present at Ft. Davis during July: Lucifer, Anna's, Broad-tailed, Rufous, Calliope, Rivoli's and Blue-throated (*vide* PE). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird fed in an agave blossom in Big Bend N.P., July 15 (V&AW). Both ♂ and ♀ Broad-tailed Hummingbirds summered in Presidio County, and a Lucifer was present July 8-16 (JM). A ♀ Rufous Hummingbird was trapped and banded near Jay, Okla., Aug. 9 (AMB). A Calliope Hummingbird visited El Paso July 28-30 (DB).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS—Two Hairy Woodpeckers were found in Ochiltree County, Tex., June 11 and one in Potter County, Tex., July 13. W. Kingbirds were present in Ottawa County, Okla., July 15-23. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were absent from Pawnee and Rush Counties, Kans. An E. Phoebe seen during the Garza County, Tex., B.B.S. provided a first record for that route. A Say's Phoebe nest was located in Meade County, Kans., June 13. A pair of Say's Phoebes attempted to nest at Crescent Lake N.W.R., but were not successful. Acadian Flycatchers were numerous at Tulsa and fledged many young. Four Least Flycatchers were banded in Sarpy County,

Neb, in late July (RG). A Violet-green Swallow at Muleshoe N.W.R., July 4 was remarkable at that date (KH, ML). Near Tulsa July 27-29, 10,000 Cliff Swallows swarmed over farm ponds and fields. Young fledged from 2 large colonies of Bank Swallows in n.e. Oklahoma (PWW). Details will be published elsewhere. At least five pairs of Rough-winged Swallows nested at N. Platte N.W.R.

Relentless heat, day after day of 100° temperatures, brought disaster to Purple Martins. The young either cooked in the nesting boxes (wood or metal) or left the nest far too soon to be able to fly. Martin house owners often hosed down the boxes several times a day in an effort to cool the interior, but in spite of this up to 75% of the young were lost from n.c. Texas to Kansas City. In w. Texas, young martins were fledged before the extreme heat began.

PHAINOPEPLAS THROUGH VIREOS—A Phainopepla in Hale County, Tex., June 8 provided a new county record (DM, RM). Most breeding bird routes showed a slight increase in Bewick's Wrens, but Carolina Wrens are still scarce. A pair of Gray Catbirds fed a fledged young at Fort Worth July 20. At Midland, Am. Robins nested for the first time in more than 10 years. First broods of E. Bluebirds in the Region fledged successfully, but often later broods died in the nesting boxes from heat. Bell's Vireos were found in all suitable habitats on most w. Texas B.B.S.s and the Schulenberg's found fair numbers in s.w. Kansas. In Oklahoma the only report of Bell's Vireo came from Tulsa, where an adult and two young were seen July 27. The nest of a Yellow-throated Vireo was found in Osage Hills S.P., Okla., July 5. Three Warbling Vireos were singing in Ochiltree County, Tex., June 11. This species is not known to nest in the Texas Panhandle.

WARBLERS—A Black-and-white Warbler was observed in Big Bend N.P., July 24. Prothonotary Warblers attempting to nest in boxes in Oklahoma City fared badly. Early nests were drowned by high water. Later nests failed because of the heat. Black-throated Gray Warblers visited El Paso July 23 & 25. A Yellow-throated Warbler fed well-fledged young at Fort Worth May 23. Louisiana Waterthrushes wandered in late July to Presidio, Crosby & Lubbock counties, Big Bend N.P., and Fort Worth. Common Yellowthroats summered in Crosby, Randall, Hutchinson and Midland counties. While the species probably breeds at all 4 locations, no conclusive evidence was found.

ICTERIDS—Two ♀ Bobolinks were sighted in Stafford County, Kans., July 20.

The E. Meadowlark is the common summer meadowlark of w. Texas sandhill areas where sand sage-brush, shinnery oak and tall grasses grow. It is also present about the large, mostly dry, alkaline playas, as the alkaline flats support a lush growth of alkali saccaton and other tall grasses. Formerly E. Meadowlarks inhabited wet meadows which were formed in shallow draws by a high water table, but since irrigation from ground water has lowered the water table, this habitat no longer exists (KH).

The "Baltimore" Oriole was confirmed as a Nacogdoches, Tex., breeding species when a cat brought in a barely fledged juvenal July 13 (D&MW). The Great-tailed Grackle explosion in Nebraska continued as several nesting pairs were found at Grand Island and displaying birds were seen at Gibbon and N. Platte. A Bronzed Cowbird at Big Spring, Tex., June 6 provided a first record there (GW, GS).

FRINGILLIDS—Indigo Buntings are now recorded regularly during summer in the c.

part of the Texas Panhandle but nesting has not been confirmed. In Pawnee County, Kans., Seltman could find only 20 fledgling Dickcissels in 500 acres of alfalfa. Dickcissels disappeared from the Tulsa area by mid-July, while a few spent only the last 2 weeks of July at Midland. A ♂ Rufous-sided Towhee summered at El Paso (KZ, JD). Grasshopper Sparrows were common at Crescent Lake N.W.R., and in the Texas Panhandle, particularly the n.e. counties. Three Grasshopper Sparrows were found in Floyd County, Tex., June 1. A Savannah Sparrow was carefully identified in Stafford County, Kans., July 17 (JS). Population of Cassin's Sparrows in w. Texas was about 20% of normal, even in Crosby and neighboring counties where grasslands were lush in May and early June. A Yellow-eyed Junco was well described from Big Bend N.P., June 17 (PJB, RN). This species has not yet been documented for Texas by a photograph or specimen.

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The South Texas Region, delayed for the arrival of additional information, will be found starting on page 933

NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

/ Helmut Grünberg

The extreme northwestern corner of the Region and the extreme southeastern range reported most of the unusual species this summer. We have included some observations that belong to "no" region south and southeast of the Yukon where birdwatchers saw or heard species along the Alaska Highway between Fort St. John, British Columbia, and the Yukon border. We have also reported some significant observations that were made at the end of May and reached the Regional Editor together with June and July observations.

June precipitation in Whitehorse was half that of normal years, while the mean temperature was slightly above normal. Precipitation and temperature in July were identical to the long-term averages. In a diverse Region

such as this one, it is hard to assess productivity of birds. On the whole, it appeared to have been normal. The number of species observed was an amazing 170 despite the fact that we received very few observations from the Northwest Territories and none from northwestern British Columbia this time.

LOONS THROUGH COOTS—A Yellow-billed Loon was observed at Herschel I., (Arctic Ocean) June 23 (RH, DM). A flock of 12 Eared Grebes and a Pied-billed Grebe were noted near km 490, Alaska Highway, n.e. British Columbia, n.w. of their known breeding ranges June 16 (KAn, TG). A (Black) Brant was seen on Kloo L., s.w. Yukon June 7 (MH, HMCL). Two nests were found on sandspits near Herschel I., June 23 (MD, fide DM). Fifty (Black) Brant as well as a Snow Goose were observed at the N. Coast of the Yukon June 23 (RH, DM). Blue-winged Teal were fairly common this summer (m.ob.). A flock of 100 Greater Scaup was seen on the Yukon side of the Mackenzie Delta June 21

(RH, DM). Two Greater Scaup were also reported from the s. Yukon in early June (G&MW). Common Eiders with 6 nests were found on sandspits near Herschel I., June 23 (MD, fide DM). A flock of 25± Black Scoters, rarely observed in the Yukon, was seen at Stokes Pt., Arctic Ocean, June 17 (AM *et al.*).

A Swainson's Hawk, probably near a nest, was observed in the Snake R. area, e.c. Yukon July 31 (RH, DM). Gyrfalcons and Peregrines were reported in several areas from n to c. Yukon this summer (m.ob.). However, the tundra subspecies of the Peregrine Falcon seems to be close to extinction in the Yukon. Only a single female showed up at a known nesting site in the n. Yukon (DM).

Two American Coots were noted at Gravel L., s. Yukon June 3 (DM). Two coots were also reported from the same general area by G&MW in early June.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH OWLS—Ruddy Turnstones were regularly observed in

pairs and showed territorial behavior in the n. British Mts. (RF, AM *et al.*). Six Whimbrels were seen at Chapman L., c. Yukon June 8 (RCan) and one at Malcolm R., n. Yukon June 22 (RH, DM). Wandering Tattlers were regularly observed on territory in the n. British Mts. (RF, AM *et al.*, young found by JMcD) and in the n. Richardson Mts. from the Dempster Hwy. to the headwaters of the Little Bell R. (GB, *fide* RF). At the headwaters of the Stewart R., young were found as well (HG, TS *et al.*). Further tattler observations came from the Snake R., (RH, DM), the Richardson Mts., (RCan) and Kluane L. (WH). Baird's Sandpipers were fairly common in the n. British Mts. (AM *et al.*). Two were observed in the Richardson Mts. near the N.W.T. border on the Dempster Hwy., July 16 (RCan). Up to four were seen showing territorial behavior at "Margareta" L., w of Misty L., Stewart R. headwaters July 16-17 (HG, TS *et al.*).

A Short-billed Dowitcher was identified and photographed from close range near Misty L., Stewart R. headwaters at the 1300 m level, surprisingly far n. of its known breeding range July 12 (HG, TS *et al.*). Another observation (no details) was reported from Kloo L., s.w. Yukon, June 7 (MH, HMcL). Birdwatchers are encouraged to watch out for W Sandpipers as 3 or more unconfirmed observations were reported this summer, some of them "doubtful" (RF, WH, AM). Moderate numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers, apparently on territory, were noted in the n. British Mts. (RF, AM *et al.*). A Hudsonian Godwit was observed on the N. Coast June 10 (RF). Many Sanderlings were encountered along creeks in the n. British Mts., in early June, and several on the N. Coast June 10-11 with no evidence of breeding (RF).

A Parasitic Jaeger was seen in the w. Mackenzie Delta (Yukon) June 21 (RH, DM), and several were observed at or near the N. Coast n. of the British Mts. (RF, AM *et al.*). Many Pomarine Jaegers were noted n. of the British Mts. until early June (RF) and a few throughout the summer (RF, AM *et al.*). Glaucous Gulls were observed regularly along the N. Coast (RH, DM, AM *et al.*). One was seen at Arctic Red R., N.W.T., June 19 (RCan) and an imm. bird appeared as far s. as Charlie L., km 83 Alaska Hwy., June 10 (KAn, TG). A rare Glaucous-winged Gull, an ad. bird, was observed at Haines Jct., July 28 (RCan).

Four Snowy Owls were noted at Herschel I., June 23 (RH, DM), and one at the upper Stewart R., June 3 (M&PB). Two Great Gray Owls were seen at the edge of a gravel pit 3-5 km n.w. of Beaver Creek.

PASSERIFORMES—An E. Kingbird appeared as far w. as Destruction Bay, s.w. Yukon June 19 (WH). A number of *Empidonax* observations were reported this summer. Among these the record of two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers stand out, one of which was seen as well, at the Mayo L. road, c. Yukon July 1 (RCan). Two Dusky Flycatchers were heard at Wolf Cr., Whitehorse May 26 and one at Clear Cr., e.c. Yukon June 28 by R Cannings who is thoroughly familiar with the species. A **Purple Martin** made its way to

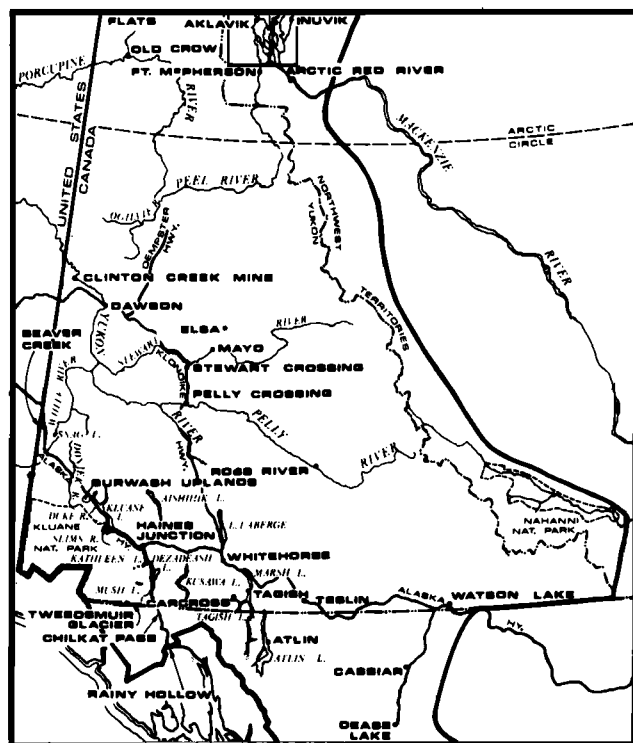
Dawson May 26 (RF) for the first record in the Yukon known to the R.E. An unconfirmed but not unlikely report of a Gray-headed Chickadee came from the Richardson Mts. (SF, *fide* RCan), while two Chestnut-backed Chickadees were observed at Pleasant Camp, B.C., July 29 (RCan). The only Dipper report this summer came from the n. Richardson Mts. s. of McDougall Pass June 16 (GB, *fide* RF).

The second **Bluethroat** record for Canada was obtained when A. Martell saw one ♂ bird June 14 in a shrubby gully in the n. foothills of the British Mts. at 69°28'N, 140°46'W. The observation was confirmed by R. Frisch and 5 other observers. Photographs were taken as well. The bird sang and performed flight songs actively. A second secretive Bluethroat was seen by A. Martell and R. Frisch, and it was strongly suspected that this was a female. The male stayed in the area at least until June 19. Wheatears were observed regularly in the mountains of the n. Yukon (RF & JK, RCan, GB *fide* RF).

At least four pairs of Yellow Wagtails, all on territory, and a single bird were seen in the n. British Mts. and coastal plains June 10-15 (RF, RH & DM, AM *et al.*). A Magnolia Warbler, an Ovenbird and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak were noted singing at Liard Hot-springs just 60 km s. of the Yukon border May 24 (RCan). These 3 species have never been reported for the Yukon, to my knowledge. An ad. ♂ Mourning Warbler was seen and heard at Cleo R. campsite, km 536 Alaska Hwy., n.e. British Columbia June 14 (KAn, TG) n.w. of its known breeding range.

A Harris' Sparrow was singing at Campbell L., Inuvik, N.W.T., June 17 (RCan). Two pairs of Smith's Longspurs were seen in the Blackstone R. uplands, Dempster Hwy. June 7 (RCan). Snow Buntings were regularly noted in the British Mts., as well as near the N. Coast during the nesting season (RF, AM *et al.*) and one was observed at the Yukon/N.W.T. border, Dempster Hwy., June 17 (RCan). An ad. male gave warning calls on a mountain at the 2000 m level at the Stewart R. headwaters July 17 (HG) showing territorial behavior far s. of the known breeding range. A suspected young bird was seen only briefly near the latter bird.

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers

June in most of the Region continued the pattern of cool, wet weather that followed the Mt. St. Helens explosion. July finally brought summerlike weather with the last half hot and almost rainless. The Bozeman, Montana area reported a dry summer but not a drought like the one east Montana had. The season appeared very good for birds, weatherwise, with abundant moisture and excellent vegetative growth, but lingering volcanic ash took its toll in the swath northeast of the mountain.

Surveys were conducted on the east range of the Cascade Mountains in Washington. Apple Lake near White Pass, a moderate ash-fall area, showed a 40.9% reduction in bird species diversity and a 43.7% reduction in individual birds, and Conrad Lake, the heavy ashfall area, showed a 63.4% reduction in species and 62.5% reduction in individuals, compared to a non-ashfall area at Crow Creek in Cougar Valley Basin (LS, W.D.G.) A July 3 trip into Lincoln and Grant counties, Washington, found no Black-necked Stilts at the pond near George, no Common Nighthawks, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Northern Orioles, Savannah, Vesper or Sage sparrows. However, herons, gulls, terns, Horned Larks and Barn Swallows appeared

to be doing all right. A May 18 trip into those counties indicated that Poor-wills were caught in the middle of the heaviest ashfall, for two were flushed from sagebrush in two spots west of Odessa, indicating a migrational movement. No Poor-wills were found in the Spokane area subsequently (JA).

Duck counts in Lincoln County were down 50% but were normal in relatively ash-free Pend Oreille County (SZ). Observations at Browne (Tower) Mountain at Spokane, Washington where less than 1/4 inch of ash fell, indicated no significant effect on birds there, nor did the B.B.S. at Avery, Idaho, where the ash deposit apparently was a bit deeper (THR). Early results of surveys about 35 miles northeast of Mt. St. Helens showed Townsend's Warblers decreasing by over 80%; McGillivray's by 66%, and Wilson's by about 50%. Significant declines in chickadees and Golden-crowned Kinglets were also noted. A major crash in insect populations was the suspected cause (BH-T, U.S.F.S., *vide* N.A.S.).

LOONS AND GREBES—Common Loons were doing well in Lincoln County, Mont., where many females swam about with young on their backs. A pair was on Maligne L., Jasper N.P., Alta., July 20 (GR) and a pair was still on Coeur d' Alene L., in n. Ida., June 18 (SGS). Spectacle L., 10 mi s.e. of Oroville, Wash., had 2 broods of Red-necked Grebes June 20 (CWe, DP) and in the same area one or two birds were on Chopaka and Sidley L. (GB, JD). Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., had a single bird June 20-July 4 (ST, Ref. Pers.). A pair was on Helena Valley Res., July 20 (SM). A pair of Eared Grebes nested for the third year in fishless Dry L., near Fortine, Mont. (WW). Coeur d' Alene L. had 20-30 W. Grebes in mid-July for the second summer record there (SGS) and a pair was on Flathead L., in w. Montana July 10 (LF). The birds were flooded out at one colony at Blackfoot Res., near Blackfoot, Ida., but managed to produce a few young. Hundreds brought off broods on nearby Am. Falls Res. (CHT). At Malheur N.W.R., about 1100 pairs were using Malheur L. alone. About 12 birds and an active nest were found at Moses L., Wash., a new breeding locality (RF).

CORMORANTS AND HERONS—Double-crested Cormorants were increasing, with over 100 nests, on Am. Falls Res., and the species seemed to be doing well at L. Walcott and Mud L. in s. Ida. All nests at Blackfoot Res. were again destroyed by human interference. The N. Potholes colony near Moses L., Wash., had 38 of the birds including young in 9 nests (RF). Nesting pairs at Malheur increased to 180, up from 80 last year (ST, Ref. Pers.). A single Double-crested Cormorant was at the mouth of the Coeur d' Alene R., near Harrison, Mont., July 14 (DJ). The 200 pairs of Great Blue Herons at the Potholes had good nesting success, and Black-crowned Night Herons there numbered about 1000 pairs (RF). The latter species was in trouble at all s.c. Idaho colonies except the one at Am. Falls Res. There was good evidence of DDE in eggs, and thin shells. Band returns from Mexico suggested pesticides used there were

adding to the effect of those applied locally. At one place someone had built a fire under the colony, causing the young in 10 nests to perish because of absent parents (CHT). At Malheur, nesting pairs dropped to 320 from 1979's 730. A Cattle Egret appeared at Massacre Rocks S.P., s.w. of Am. Falls, Ida., June 18 (WEH). A pair was at the Am. Falls colony and a pair at L. Walcott may have nested (CHT). Great Egrets at Malheur numbered 200 pairs, about half that of 1978 and 1979. The Potholes had 5 Great Egret nests, all apparently successful (RF). Two Great Egrets summered in the Pocatello, Ida. area (CHT). Snowy Egrets were on the decline in s.c. Idaho. Some fledged at Am. Falls, the first in 3 years. None was seen at Island Park or Market L., where they formerly nested. Thin eggshells were not unusual (CHT). Nesting pairs at Malheur were up to 1978 numbers. One Snowy visited the Wallowa Fish Hatchery near Enterprise, June 4, for the first record for n.e. Oregon (MH). An Am. Bittern at that hatchery was the first seen there in 5 years (FC).

White-faced Ibis at Malheur looked fine with 600 pairs, highest ever, and numbers in s.c. Idaho were up everywhere. An apparently new colony at Am. Falls had over 100 birds (CHT). One bird at Ennis L., Mont., July 15 was the first ever in summer there (PDS).

WATERFOWL—Trumpeter Swan numbers at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., continued to decline. They once reached an all-time high of 41 there as they reproduced under semi-captive conditions. In 1976 an aerator was removed, resulting in freezeovers which forced the birds to migrate S. Returning the flock to wild and natural conditions has resulted in the decline. Probable factors in the decline are the mingling of the migrants with flocks from other areas and casualties from shooting, power lines, autos and even ingesting paper clips (DNW)! Since the species population in N. America is estimated at 4000, it is no longer considered in peril and there are no plans to return to an artificial propagation program at Turnbull (DNW).

Although summering waterfowl numbers at Turnbull were about normal, nesting success was impaired by the ashfall. Goose broods, however, appeared little affected. Two areas searched for duck nests there in 1979 and 1980 had totals of 14 and 6 nests respectively, even though the search effort was greater this year. Brood surveys by airboat June 21, 1979 revealed 28 duck and 2 goose broods; replicated surveys June 18, 1980 found only 4 duck and 1 goose broods. Canada Goose production on the Snake R., between Marsing and Farewell Bend in s. Ida.,



totalled 1542, a 26% increase over 1979 and 39% above the last 5 years' average. At Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., waterfowl numbers were low, but this was believed to be due at least partly to destruction of water control structures by excess water release in February, although the area also received much ash. At Malheur N.W.R. over 26,000 pairs of ducks nested for a good year: Red-head at 6900 pairs, Cinnamon Teal 5500 pairs, Mallards 4100 pairs, and Gadwall 3300 pairs, were the most common species. By July 1 the fall migration was well under way, with 34,000 Pintail and 85,000 ducks in total using the Basin. The duck population in the Fortine, Mont., area was drastically below normal for no apparent reason (WW).

Harlequin Ducks brought off broods at Kootenai Falls and on the upper Yaak R., in Lincoln Co., Mont.; (CW) and a brood was on the Middle Fork of the Flathead R., in n.w. Montana, in late July (DS). The Methow R., Okanogan Co., Wash., provided 2 sightings (GB, SB).

VULTURES AND HAWKS—A surprising concentration of Turkey Vultures was near Murphy, Ida., where the birds fed on dead cattle (FB). An ad. White-tailed Kite was sighted between Mountain Home and Boise, Ida., July 31 (JGH). Goshawk numbers appeared good. Swainson's Hawk numbers were up at Malheur with 2-3 times as many nests found as last year. At least 27 sightings occurred in other areas. An excellent concentration of nesting Ferruginous Hawks was n. of Enterprise, Ore., with at least 35-40 reported. A nest with two young was found near Starbuck, Wash., June 27 (EH). Richland, Wash., Malheur N.W.R., and Pilot Rock, Ore., had sightings. An imm. Bald Eagle was sighted in Eagle Cap Wilderness in n.e. Oregon July 28 and one was at Rimrock L., Yakima Co., Wash., in July. Kootenai N.F., Lincoln Co., Mont., had over 120 Osprey nest sites and produced numerous Merlin sightings (CW).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS—A ♀ Spruce Grouse with four chicks was sighted July 5-6 at Billy Goat Pass about 15 mi n. of Mazama, Wash., (MD, MEi) and another with two chicks was near Calispell Bog near Calispell Peak, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (EH, AR). The species was reported doing well in Kootenai N.F. (CW). Broods of Blue and Ruffed Grouse were practically nil near Troy, Mont. (KB). Renesting by upland game birds in the ashfall areas of e. Washington appeared excellent. Pheasant survival may actually have been helped by the disruption, for later broods had much more favorable weather (RB, W.D.G.). Turkeys released in Lincoln County, Mont., appeared to be thriving (CW).

CRANES AND SHOREBIRDS—About 3 pairs of Sandhill Cranes raised two young at Ladd Marsh, near La Grande, Ore., (RR) and a pair near Salmon, Ida., had one young (HR). Two were near Seneca, Ore., July 15 (RDP) and 2-3 were in the Helena area during the summer (SM). Single Semipalmated Plovers appeared in the Nampa area June 16 (BS); at Enterprise, Ore., July 22 (RDP), and at Prineville, Ore., July 14 (KV). Snowy Plovers were doing well at Malheur N.W.R., and one was sighted at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Ore., July 8 (KV). Up to four Upland Sandpipers were sighted in the Spokane Valley at the only breeding site in Washington, during June (JA). Three of the birds were found at the other Northwest site in Bear Valley, near Seneca, Ore., June 7 (MA *et al.*), and one was observed in Logan Valley to the e., July 16 (*vide* RDP). The species was seen on the N. Fork of the Blackfoot R., s. of Seeley L., apparently the only breeding area w. of the Continental Divide in Montana (AB, *vide* PW). A wandering individual perched on a fence post about 12 mi w. of Ellensburg, Wash., July 30 (REW). The Reed Pt., Mont., B.B.S. had a record high of 12 Upland Sandpipers (WEH). Strawberry L., in the mountains s. of Prairie City, Ore., had a Solitary Sandpiper Aug. 8, for apparently the first record in the area (BM, BSH). Twelve Marbled Godwits were in the Nampa area July 30 (VC) and one dropped in at Malheur June 26. Wallowa County's first record of the species was of 14 at Joseph, Ore., July 13 (FC). American Falls Res. had 17 on June 18 (WEH). Two Black-necked Stilts appeared at Frenchman Hills and Winchester Wasteways in s. Grant Co., Wash., in July (GC, TT).

GULLS AND TERNS—Five Herring Gulls were recorded at Warm L., Ida., (BS) and the species appeared in Lincoln County, Mont., along with occasional California, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's gulls (CW). Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., had two Bonaparte's July 3 (JA) and a Franklin's appeared at Joseph, Ore., June 1, for the first county record (FC). Caspian Terns may be making a slow comeback at Blackfoot and Am. Falls Res. in s. Idaho, but there is still cause for concern (CHT). In the Nampa area up to 14 were sighted (VC). A Forster's Tern at the mouth of Ladd Cr., near Union, Ore., was the county's first (JE, AC).

DOVES THROUGH OWLS—Oregon had two sightings of single Band-tailed Pigeons. One near Joseph June 23 (FC) was the second ever for n.e. Oregon, and one was found along the Middle Fork of John Day R., Malheur N.F., June 19 (MA). The species had been seen previously at Indian Rock Lookout, n.w. of Bates (RH, *vide* MA). Another one appeared along the Grande Ronde R., in Asotin County, Wash., about 10 mi e. of Troy, Ore., (EH) and one was sighted at Liberty L., Wash., June 2 (G&SV). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found dead in Hines, Ore., June 18. When the finder returned for the bird, it was gone, but fortunately he had made a very recognizable sketch of it (RM). An ad. Yellow-billed Cuckoo hit a window at Missoula in July (PW—*to U. of Mont.) for the third state record. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** showed up at Warm R., Ida., June 18 (WEH). Two Flammulated Owls were heard and seen near Diamond L., w. of Newport, Wash., June 29 (EH). In Oregon one was heard 7 mi w. of Bend June 30 (KV) and one was calling from a cavity in a snag, w. of Starr C.G., 9 mi n. of Seneca June 8 (MA). Two nests of this species were discovered in Starkey Experimental Forest near Starkey, Ore. (EB) and one bird was seen on Spring Cr., about 20 mi n.w. of La Grande July 31 (RR). Burrowing Owls were thought to have done fairly well in the Richland, Wash., area (REW) and up to 20 were sighted in s.w. Idaho (G.E.A.S.). The species was still holding out in the Tobacco Valley at Eureka, Mont. (CW). A single Great Gray Owl was found at Warm L., Knox, Ida., July 20 (BS). Two Saw-whet Owl nests in Starkey Experimental Forest supplied the only report for the summer (EB).

POOR-WILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS—A Poor-will heard repeatedly just n. of Ennis L., June 21, gave the first suggestion of breeding in the Bozeman latilong (PDS, WEH, SC). A gathering of 75 Com. Nighthawks was at Quincy, Wash., in July (SR) and nearby Winchester had 100 (DG). The only Black Swifts reported were 12 at Bridgeport, Wash., June 5 (MM, GBU). Before the May 18 ashfall, White-throated Swifts were nesting under Interstate 82 bridges in Kittitas and Yakima counties, Wash., but they were subsequently seen only at Selah Cr. bridge. Site abandonment may have been the result of the 1 in of ash (EH). Unusual Black-chinned Hummingbird records were of a male about 10 mi w. of Okanogan, Wash., June 5 (MM, BGu) and at least one pair on the s.w. flank of Steens Mt., s. of Malheur N.W.R., June 3 (ME). The latter spot also had one or more pairs of Broad-tailed Hummingbirds on the same date (ME). Wapato, Wash., had one July 18 (Y.A.S.). An imm. Anna's Hummingbird visited a Spokane feeder July 19 (JA). All hummer numbers were extremely low in the Spokane area (JA, THR). A similar situation existed in the Swan Valley near Condon, Mont., where hummingbird use of feeders was only 1/3—1/4 of previous years' (ELF). Fewer Rufous and Calliope hummingbirds were noted near Troy, Mont. (KB). Possibly an abundance of wildflowers kept them from feeders.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS—The Red-headed Woodpecker may be establishing itself in Idaho, for 4 adults and an immature were found and more immatures may have been in a nest cavity, near Cathedral Pines C.G., 12 mi s. of Ketchum July 29 (LR). An ad. male appeared near Careywood, Ida., May 29 (GD). A scattering of Lewis' Woodpeckers occurred over the Region. In Lincoln County, Mont., they shifted their ranges for up to 30 mi but appeared to nest successfully (CW). One was at Malheur for apparently the first summer record (ME). There were at least 3 sightings of Williamson's Sapsuckers in Idaho, 3 in e. Oregon and one in e. Washington. The species was "doing well" in Kootenai N.F., Mont. (CW). A pair of White-headed Woodpeckers nested at Daggett Cr., 26 mi e. of Boise, Ida., on Rte. 21 (AL) for apparently the first breeding record for that area. The only N. Three-toed Woodpeckers sighted were a pair at Calispell Bog, Calispell Peak, Pend Oreille Co., Wash., June 29 (JA) and a pair near a nest along the W. Fork of the Pasayten R., n.w. Okanogan County, Wash. (ME). Concern is being expressed that the cutting of snags for firewood will adversely affect woodpeckers and other cavity nesters.

An Ash-throated Flycatcher was found along Dry Cr., 10 mi s. of Toppenish, Wash. (EH) and two were reported at Suplee, Ore., July 15 (RDP). An Alder Flycatcher was examined closely and its song heard at Enterprise, Ore., June 21 (JE, AC). Willow Flycatchers were decidedly scarce in the Spokane area and were reported elsewhere only from s.w. Idaho and Nile, Wash.—single birds. A ♀ Gray Flycatcher was collected June 23, 8 mi s.e. of Twisp, Wash., for the state's northernmost record (SR). Horned Larks on the Tobacco Plains, n. of Eureka, Mont., during the summer were the first evidence of probable nesting in the Libby latilong (WW). Dead swallows were still being found at Turnbull N.W.R., in mid-June.

JAYS THROUGH WRENS—A Scrub Jay appeared briefly in La Grande July 22 for the first n.e. Oregon record (JE). A pair of Black-capped Chickadees sighted in Richland July 20 and again Aug. 2 may have nested. This is Woodley's only summer record there. The W. Fork of the Pasayten R. had about 20 Boreal Chickadees, one pair carrying food, in early June (ME) and several were sighted July 6 at Billy Goat Pass, n. of Mazama (MD, MEi), both in Washington. A few of the Boreals were noted at Ross Cr., near Bull L., and in the Yaak R. valley, Lincoln Co., Mont. (CW). Malheur N.W.R. had 3 Red-breasted Nuthatches June 13 (Ref. Pers.) A few Pygmy Nuthatches were noted at Libby, Mont. (CW). A Brown Creeper brought six young to a feeder near Lake Fork, Ida., June 16, for the first breeding record for that area (EF). Bewick's Wren was again found at Lewis and Clark S.P., w. of Dayton, Wash., June 27 (EH). The Cañon Wren was noted at a new Montana site, Milligan Canyon, along the Madison R., n. of Ennis (PDS, RAH, WEH).

THRUSHES THROUGH WAXWINGS—The first breeding season records of Hermit

Thrushes for the Coeur d' Alene latilong were observations of two singing at Spy Glass Peak, Coeur d' Alene N.F., July 12, and eight singing between Twin Crags and Crystal L., s.e. of St. Maries, July 13 (SGS). A Veery at Indian Ford C.G., n.w. of Sisters, July 6 was the westernmost ever for Oregon (J&JC). At least four were singing at the colony on the Middle Fork of John Day R., in e. Oregon (MA). Nest boxes at Boise-Cascade C.G., n.w. of Yakima held 36 broods of Mountain Bluebirds (Y.A.S.) and the species was quite abundant in the Blue Mt. area of s.e. Washington (EH). Their numbers appeared good in s.w. Idaho (G.E.A.S.). A pair of Bohemian Waxwings nested at Libby, Mont. Eggs were probably laid in late June and the young fledged about mid-July (CW). A family group of six of this species, the fledglings being fed, was found along the W. Fork of the Pasayten R., July 17 (ME).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS—A Red-eyed Vireo was observed e. of Fields, Ore., June 4 (ME,TF) and one was at Malheur N.W.R. headquarters June 1 (MA,m.ob.). Umatilla N.W.R., Ore., had a Black-and-white Warbler June 7-9 (GG). Two pairs of Tennessee Warblers nested near Libby, Mont., (CW) and a single bird was seen at Jasper N.P., Alta., in mid-July (GR). A ♂ Northern Parula appeared at Malheur July 6 (Ref. Pers.) and a singing ad. ♂ Magnolia Warbler was spotted in Jasper N.P., in mid-July (GR). A ♂ Black-throated Gray Warbler appeared along the Yakima R., s. of Ellensburg, June 19 (LL). Malheur had 2 ♂ Chestnut-sided Warblers June 8-13 and a ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler June 9 & 13 (Ref. Pers.). A singing male of this species at Bozeman June 12 was the state's fourth and the second for that locality (JS,PDS,SC). Several singing ♂ Ovenbirds were again found in Cottonwood Canyon s. of Bozeman (PDS) and a single bird was at Malheur June 1 (*vide* MA). One was seen and heard singing in the Wenas Valley n.w. of Yakima July 12 (G&WH). It was subsequently heard July 15, 18 & 20 (GHR). A N. Waterthrush nest was found in a bog near Philips L., Colville N.F., Stevens Co., Wash. (JN). A singing bird of this species was in Wright's Valley, a new location, June 19 (JA) and one was near West Fork, Wash., June 21 (CWe,DP). Yellow-breasted Chat numbers appeared to be picking up in the Spokane area (JA), at Richland (REW), and between Joseph and Imnaha, Ore., where an amazing 8-9 birds/mi were found along a 20 mi stretch of road (FC). There were several reports of Am. Redstarts, the first in 3 years, in Union County, Ore.

BLACKBIRDS—Bobolinks nested near Union, Ore., after a 2 year absence. Only one or two pairs were active in this, the only known colony in the Grande Ronde Valley (MK,GS,JJ). Five of the birds were seen at Wallowa, Ore., July 22 (RDP) and Salmon, Ida., had sightings July 6 & 23 (HR). Six males were observed near Loomis, Wash., June 20 (CWe,DP) and two were along Camas Prairie w. of Springdale, Wash., in June (JA). A full-plumaged ♂ **Great-tailed Grackle** appeared near La Grande June 5 for Oregon's third record (GS *et al.*). In Lincoln

County, Mont., young Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen being fed by warblers, towhees, juncos, sparrows and even a Red-breasted Nuthatch (CW)!

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS—A ♂ Scarlet Tanager was sighted at Canyon Ferry, e. of Helena, June 8 (P&RH) and one was heard along the Jefferson R., w. of Three Forks, Mont., the same day (PDS). A photo of one at a Butte feeder with W. Tanagers was published by the *Butte Standard* June 9 (PDS). A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was along Pike Cr., Harney Co., Ore., June 4 (TF,ME). White-winged Crossbills were abundant in Jasper N.P., in mid-July (GR). Two Lark Buntings appeared June 26 near Belgrade, Mont., where they are seldom recorded (WEH) and single males were sighted in Idaho in the Arbon Valley in the Pocatello area June 10 and at Blackfoot Res., June 28 (CHT). One was found at Twin Falls June 12 (JR). Grasshopper Sparrows were found in the vicinity of Libby and Eureka for the first record of probable nesting in the latilong (CW,WW). The species was found s.e. of Dayton, Wash., June 27 (EH). The Reed Point B.B.S. counted a new high of 12 of the birds June 26 (WEH). In the Pocatello area the species appeared to be spreading slightly (CHT).

Three **Baird's Sparrows** on the Reed Point B.B.S. added the species to the Columbus latilong list and three were photographed at Big L., near Columbus June 28 (WEH). Several Gray-headed Juncos were found in Sawtooth N.F., 30 mi s. of Hanson, Ida., for the first record for the latilong (JR). In Jasper N.P., Oregon and Slate-colored Juncos were present, the former by far the more numerous, and Golden-crowned Sparrows were numerous and singing at timberline in mid-July (GR). Sage Sparrows were reported only from s.w. Idaho (G.E.A.S.) and near Richland (REW). A Fox Sparrow was singing near timberline on Slate Peak in extreme n.e.

Skagit County, Wash., July 17 (ME). One traditional McCown's Longspur site in the Bozeman area was destroyed by the planting of wheat (PDS).

OBSERVERS CITED—James Acton, Merle Archie, Sid Bakke, Fred Bell, Arnold Bolle, George Brady (GB), Reade Brown, Evelyn Bull, Kay Burk, Greg Butcher (GBu), Gretchen Call, Jim & Judy Carlson, Frank Conley, Alan Contreras, Vera Coons, Sharon Cotterell, John Danielson, Mike & Sue Daugherty (M&SD), Michael Donahue (MD), Glen Drowns, Mark Egger (ME), Marc Eisdorfer (MEi), Joe Evanich, Lynn Farrar, Tad Finnell, Edward L. Foss, Ron Friesz, Ernest Frost, Don Garrett, Golden Eagle Audubon Society (G.E.A.S.), Greg Green, P. & R. Harper, W. Edward Harper, R. A. Hays, Bill Harrington-Tweit, John G. Hewston, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Robert Hudson, Mac Huff, Eugene Hunn, Don Johnson, John Johnson, Marianne Kaplan, L. Landrie, Al Larson, Sid Martin, Barbara McKinney, Randy Mills, Mike Moore, National Audubon Society (N.A.S.), Jack Nisbet, Richard D. Palmer, Dennis Paulson, G. Rainer, Georgia H. Ramsey, Leo Reed, Alan Richards, Hadley Roberts, Thomas H. Rogers, Ron Rohweder, Sievert Rohwer, Jeff Ruprecht, Georgia Sanderson, Brian Sharp (BSh), Belle Shaw (BS), Don Skaar, P D Skaar, Jim Sparks, Lee Stream, Shirley G. Sturts, Steve Thompson, Terry Thompson, C.H. Trost, Kent van Vuren, Glen & Scott Volyn, Washington Department of Game (W.D.G.), Cathy Wentworth (CWe), Winton Weydemeyer, Donald N. White, Carl Wolf (CW), Robert E. Woodley, Philip Wright, Yakima Audubon Society (Y.A.S.), Steve Zender.

Abbreviations: B.B.S., breeding bird survey; C.G., campground; Ref. Pers., refuge personnel; U.S.F.S., U.S. Forest Service.—**THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell Ave., Spokane, WA 99206.**

MOUNTAIN WEST /Hugh E. Kingery

This hot, dry summer brought few startling observations in the Mountain West. We did acquire new information about breeding birds from workers in poorly-known areas. The environmental research spin-off from the energy boom will produce more biological data on the Mountain West, but the boom itself will produce more people—and more pressures on the western environment.

The study of distribution still has unexplored areas. Over the past few years Mountain West observers have turned up an impressive number of new breeding species in the Region. The accompanying chart, listing 44 species, details this striking information, developed by many observers over the past 15 or more years. About two-thirds of these data originated with amateur observers.

Except for some with solid range expansions, almost all these new species occur in

places remote from centers of ornithological activity. With the vast distances in the West, finding breeders with spotty distribution is difficult. These new data raise other questions: do these birds nest in other places we haven't explored? What else have we missed? What caused them to come into the Mountain West? For the last question, one column of the chart speculates about possible reasons

GREBES TO PELICANS—Eared Grebes nested in usual numbers; typical were 150 nests at Ruby Lake N.W.R., Nev., (SB), and 200 birds at Hutton Lake, N.W.R., Wyo (DM). At Walden, Colo., about 1000 Eared Grebes, 7-10 days into the nesting cycle in early July, failed when irrigators drew the water out of Walden Res. Some attempted re-nesting when the water level stabilized, but with low success (F&JJ). Western Grebes nested successfully at Bear River N.W.R., with 1500 adults producing 400 young, at Timnath, Colo., with 200 + chicks (RAR), at Ordway, Colo., with 20 pairs (VT), and at

Walden, with 55 adults and young (F&JJ). The latter 3 areas are newly reported nesting sites to AB. At Anaho Ref., Nev., White Pelicans, nesting earlier than usual, produced 1370 young, compared with 1575 last year (MR). The White Pelicans at Riverside Res., near Ft. Morgan Colo., fledged a likely 500+, an excellent total (RAR, GM).

CORMORANTS, HERONS, IBISES — Bear R. reported 148 nests of Double-crested Cormorants, and 150 young (RV). Near Denver, 16 of Chatfield State Park's 26 nests held 34 young July 31 (HEK), and colonies in n e Colorado reportedly had good production (RAR). Sheridan had its first definite breeding record (although cormorants do breed just across the Montana line), with one nest found July 18; the same day 2 Sheridan reservoirs had 105 cormorants (HD). Encampment, Wyo., which last year had 25 cormorant nests, had none this year (WEH). Those at Milton Res., near Platteville, Colo., have begun to displace Great Blue Herons, but heronries did well at Gunnison, Colo. (25 nests), Chatfield (92 nests), Bear R. (400 adults, 200 young), and Ruby L. (35 nests, 1-2 young/nest). Las Vegas reported an imm. Green Heron July 24-30, possibly from a local nesting site (VM). Other summer Green Herons were found at St. George, Utah, and 6 locations in Colorado. One pair of Cattle Egrets nested at Carson L., furnishing apparently the first Nevada nesting record (MR). Near Denver, Barr L., with 2 pairs became Colorado's third nesting site (BRo), but the total state nest count is still less than 10. Two pairs of Great Egrets nested at Boulder, Colo., at the site discovered in 1972 (RAR). Ruby L., and Halleck, Nev., had 350 pairs of nesting Snowy Egrets and 2-3 young/nest (SB). Bear River's 400 pairs produced 300 young, a decrease (RV). Three Colorado colonies had excellent hatches (RAR). Black-crowned Night Herons generally nested successfully, with an old heronry re-occupied this year at Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo. (MTN), and 56 seen June 16 at Ogden Bay W.M.A., Utah (JN). From Ruby L. came a disturbing report, though—the 30 pairs nesting on that refuge suffered from thin eggshells, possibly picked up from pesticides in Mexico. An agency study will examine the causes (SB). White-faced Ibis news improved. In 1978 all of Nevada had 800 nests. This year, the Ruby L. area had 255+ pairs, with good success—3 young/nest (SB), and Stillwater W.M.A.'s 1800 nests produced 4500 young, up from 1200 nests and 2500 young last year (MR). Bear R. had 1000 pairs and 800 young (RV), and Logan, Utah's colony had the same size and success as last year (1500 pairs, 10% success due to predation — KA). At Ogden Bay, 100 were present June 16 (JN).

WATERFOWL — In Utah, ducks present in nesting season doubled over last year—68,549 reported June 1-15—but production did not increase proportionately. High predation, high water levels, and bad weather induced nest desertion. At Bear R., and Ruby L., ducks had only 3-4 young/nest: Bear R., 3526 young (2459 Gadwalls, 407 Redheads—RV), and at Ruby, 3400 nesting

pairs (758 Redheads, twice the 1979 total; 630 Canvasbacks, up from last year; and 630 Cinnamon Teal—SB). Stillwater's production doubled over last year — welcome news from that refuge, beleaguered in recent years by a shortage of water (MR). Monte Vista had a good year because of a higher breeding population and water availability; the 8400 young were a 40% increase over 1979 (MTN).

Ten pairs of Trumpeter Swans nested at Ruby L., and vicinity. Limited funds limited aerial surveys; 10 cygnets hatched from the 3 pairs checked, of which nine survived to June 30 (SB). A Snow Goose visited Delta, Colo., in early July, presumably molting since it was unable to fly (JRG). Wood Ducks have always seemed rare in our Region; nesting occurred at Salt Lake City (ML), and Dayton and Ash Creek, Wyo., the latter the first 2 nests for n.e. Wyoming and third and fourth for the state (MF, BS). Midway, Utah, had a rare midsummer pair of Ring-necked Ducks June 29-July 6; no evidence of breeding (CHI). Midsummer Hooded Mergansers were at Hutton L., Wyo., June 14 (JS, GMe) and Moffat, Colo., June 22 (KC).

HAWKS, EAGLES — The Lamar, Colo., City Park hosted at least 25 Mississippi Kites July 4, and 48 on July 26 (CB, D.F.O.). A Red-shouldered Hawk was at Corn Cr., near Las Vegas, July 30 (MP). Ten Swainson's Hawks lined a fence near Steamboat Springs, Colo., June 17 (F&JJ). On July 26 at Erie, Colo., a flock of Swainson's numbered 116—one of the largest concentrations ever reported to this Editor, and at a date very early for flocking (VD, ME, BH). Two observers saw a **Black Hawk** at Chatfield near Denver June 20-21 (KK, † BA), Colorado's first sighting and probably the most northeasterly record of that s.w. species. A thorough search failed to turn it up subsequently. The population of Golden Eagles in Utah this year was exceptionally high, as was the rabbit population (PW). Between Gunnison and Blue Mesa Res., Colo., 10 active eyries were reported (KC). In Wyoming 11 or 12 historical Bald Eagle eyries outside the 2 national parks were occupied; 3 failed, the other 8 produced 15 young. National park eagles reportedly had poor success (BO). In Colorado one summering Bald Eagle was at Grand L., June 7 and two were near Kremmling June 14 (MM, GY). Ospreys in the Jackson/Pinedale, Wyo., area had 17 successful nests, fledging 34 young; 6 historical sites were not productive (BO). No young fledged from the nest at Sheridan (HD). At Flaming Gorge, Utah, 6 pairs bred successfully, equalling last year's number (PW). Only Wyoming reported Merlins — 5 nesting attempts fledged 2-7 young (BO), and another nest at Buffalo had 5 eggs May 23, the first substantiated nesting record for n.e. Wyoming (RM, BB).

GROUSE, CRANES — The Sharp-tailed X Sage Grouse hybrid mentioned last year (AB 33:793) strutted this spring on a Sage Grouse lek near Sheridan and was seen during the summer as well (HD). Bobwhites keep popping up in odd places this summer, in a Cheyenne alley June 28-July 3 (*vide* MH).

Three Whooping Cranes from the Grays L. flock summered at Daniel, Wyo. (BO). A series of observations of Sandhill Cranes in n Wyoming (Jackson, Greybull, Sheridan) raises speculation of possible nesting by isolated pairs (BR, JMc, DMi). The 10 pairs at Ruby L. had poor success owing to poor weather in May (SB).

SHOREBIRDS — News of Snowy Plovers bodes well, suggesting widely scattered nesting populations: 400 found in an intensive survey (preliminary results) of the Lahontan Valley around Stillwater W.M.A., (MR); a handful from 3 locations around Great Salt L. (ML, LM, BBe, RV), and two near Laramie, Wyo., July 2, at the same location as last year (WEH). Nesting in Colorado's Arkansas Valley failed owing to rising water (CC), though up to 12 birds were observed there in July (CB, D.F.O.). At Eureka, and probably in much of e. Nevada, the weather caused poor success for Killdeer young, as it did for Sandhill Cranes. May snows wiped out the first set of eggs; the second hatched only to face heavy rains. By July, Eyre saw only two adults instead of the 10-12 birds of last year. Bear River's 1000 adults produced only 200 young (RV). Five e Wyoming locations reported Upland Sandpipers (BO, BK, HD); fair numbers probably nest there. A June 25 bird was Jackson's first (ER). June shorebirds included Solitary Sandpipers June 17 at Walden and July 7 at West Creek, Colo. (D.F.O., WWB), a Greater Yellowlegs at Walden June 18 (F&JJ), single Least Sandpipers at Jackson and Sheridan June 14 & 27, and a Marbled Godwit at Walden June 19-20 (F&JJ). Bear R. reported far fewer Am. Avocets than in the last few years, with 10,000 adults producing 2000 young. Southern Nevada had its first nesting record of Am. Avocets, 2 pairs with young near Las Vegas (VM), and the Black-necked Stilt there with 2 young provided the first breeding record in several years (VM). Bear R. had 6000 adults, 1200 young (IS).

GULLS, TERNS — Bear R. produced 1000 young California Gulls from 4399 eggs in 1664 nests (RV). From Riverside Res. came 50-80 young, and Antero Res. had a good hatch (RAR). Bear River's 10,000 ad. Franklin's Gulls produced 2000 young. They cruised far from the refuge, with 17 seen June 11 silently crossing a pass near Snow Basin, Utah (JN). By July 26-27, 4150 had gathered in s.e. Colorado (D.F.O.), probably from n plains colonies. Two Bonaparte's Gulls were reported from Jackson July 6 (OH). Bear River's 150 Caspian Terns produced 115 eggs in 55 nests, fledgling count not yet available

OWLS TO SWIFTS — Utah's artificial nest program for Barn Owls "continues to produce good numbers of young. In Box Elder and Davis counties in n. Utah, 25 of 30 boxes attracted pairs and . . . 140-150 young were banded. Provo has a similar program through its Audubon chapter. These results are comparable to those of last year" (ML, PW). A Screech Owl found with an injured mandible was rehabilitated by a vet and released at Niwot, Colo., where it had been

Table 1. New Breeding Birds — Mountain West

<i>Species</i>	<i>Direction from which it came</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>First Positive Evidence</i>	<i>Cause of Spread</i>	<i>Footnotes</i>
A. Solid Range Expansions [Some more than 10 years]					
W Grebe	?	Colo.: plains and mt. marshes	1949	A	e
Cattle Egret	S & E	Colo.: 3-4 small colonies	1977	C	
		Utah: 1 colony	1978		
		Nev.: 1 colony	1980		
Mississippi Kite	SE	s.e. Colo.: Cimarron & Arkansas Rivers	1971	B, C	
Chimney Swift	E	e. Colo. & s.e. Wyo.	1956	B	f
Blue Jay	E	e. Colo. & e. Wyo.; spreading West	1960s	B	g
Curve-billed Thrasher	S	s.e. Colo., N to Fountain	1972	C	
Starling	E	Throughout	1943	C	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	E	Colo.: Front Range foothills	1968	J	
Orchard Oriole	E	e.Colo. & e. Wyo.	late 1960s	B	g
Com. Grackle	E	e. Colo. & e. Wyo.; spreading West	1950s	B	g
Great-tailed Grackle	SW	s. Nev.	1974	B, C	
		s. Utah	1979		
		s. Colo.	1970		
Indigo Bunting	E	e. Colo.	1953	B	
	E	e. Wyo. (summer records only)	1968		
	S	s. Utah (rare nesting records)	?		
	S	s. Nev. (suspected nesting)	1979		
B. Newly found breeders, probably always present					
Green Heron	E	e. Colo.	1976	D	
Black-chinned Hummingbird	SW	e. Colo., Front Range N to Pueblo	1970	D	e
		w. Wyo.: many sightings recently	1979		
Rivoli's Hummingbird	SW	Colo. mtns.	1965	D	
Purple Martin	S	w. Colo.	1979	D	e
Orange-crowned Warbler	?	Colo. mtns.	1970s	D	e
Scott's Oriole	W	Utah/Colo. line	1979	D, I	e
C. Species with newly-found, isolated breeding sites					
Com. Egret	?	Boulder, Colo.	1972	B	e
White Pelican	?	Riverside Res., Colo.	1962	A	e
Osprey	?	Colo., Wyo., Utah, scattered reservoirs	1970s	A	f
Virginia Rail	N	Las Vegas, Nev.	1980	A	y
Am. Avocet	N	Las Vegas, Nev.	1980	A	e
California Gull	W	Colo.: 2 sites	1963	A	e
Least Tern	SE	e. Colo.	1978	A	f
Boreal Owl	N	Yellowstone/Grand Teton N.P.s, Wyo.; R.M.N.P. Colo. (no nests; fledglings and numerous summer records)	1963	D	
Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker	N	Grand Teton N.P.	1976	U	
Black Phoebe	SW	Pueblo, Colo.	1972-74	U	
Grace's Warbler	W	Rye, Colo.	1978	U	e
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	E	Bonny Res., Colo.	1974 (only)	B	f
		Sheridan, Wyo.	1979		t
White-winged Crossbill	N	Yellowstone N.P., Wyo., & Logan, Utah	1977	U	
D. Likely breeders, but nest or recently fledged young not located					
Hooded Merganser	E	Colo.	1978	A	
Spotted Owl	W	w. Colo.	1978	D	
Great Crested Flycatcher	E	n.e. Colo.	1975	B	t
Short-billed Marsh Wren	E	Julesburg, Colo.	1977-78	A	t
Gray Catbird	E	e. Nev.	ca. 1975	D	t, e
Black-throated Gray Warbler	S	w. Wyo.	1980	D	t, e
Bay-breasted Warbler	N	R.M.N.P. & Florissant, Colo.	1978 (only)	I	t
N Waterthrush	N	Sheridan, Wyo.	1976	I	t
E Meadowlark	E	Julesburg, Colo.	1975	U	t
Hepatic Tanager	SW	Las Animas Co., Colo.	1978	I	t
Grasshopper Sparrow	E	Dyer, Nev.	1980	U	t, e
Field Sparrow	E	Bonny Res., Colo., & Torrington, Wyo.	1975	U	t

Key to Causes

- A New reservoirs have created new habitat (shoreline, seepage, and water sources)
- B Human settlement has created new habitat (more trees have been planted in the cities or propagated along rivers and reservoirs)
- C Species which is spareading and expanding
- D Recent fieldwork has revealed what was very likely always present
- I Isolated locality, several hundred mi from other breeding populations
- J Isolated breeding pairs along a 150-mi stretch from R.M.N.P. to Colorado Springs
- U Unknown

Footnotes

e/ Established in other parts of Region

f/ Less than 3 nesting records prior to 1970.

g/ Limited prior nesting; has become notably more common in last 10-20 years

y/ Recently fledged young observed

Acknowledgment: Thanks to the following for critiquing this table: BA, CC, KD, HD, CL, BO, ARP, BR, RAR

found. "The whole town turned out. After the release the ladies served coffee and cinnamon bread."

S.A.

CUCKOOS—"The Year of the Cuckoo" it was (JC), for the e. part of the Region. Almost every contributor in Colorado and Wyoming mentioned the phenomenon of the cuckoos. Yellow-billeds nested and summered along the Front Range in every community from Ft. Collins to Pueblo. They probably always do nest there, but rarely so visibly. The birds even poured into the mountains, with reports or specimens from Estes Park, Gunnison, Montrose, Ridgway, Monte Vista, and Durango (the last two providing latilong records). They penetrated W to Lander and Basin, Wyo. (both new latilongs) and the nine or more observed at Sheridan compared with only 10 observations since 1966. However, in Wyoming, Black-billeds prevailed, with reports from 6 latilongs, including 3 new ones. Reports came of 22 on a B.B.S. near Greybull, and observations in Cody, Moose, Lander, Hudson, Dubois, and Sheridan. Colorado had but one report, from Boulder. The species probably breeds across n. Wyoming, possibly in n. e. Colorado. (Details of cuckoo counts to be published in *C.F.O. Journal*).

The Flammulated Owl may prove to be the most common owl in Colorado, if results from a study plot near Woodland Park prove typical. Reynolds plotted 36 singing posts—i.e., territorial males—in an .88 sq. mi tract! They were more common than robins (*vide* RAR). Boulder and Platoro, Colo., are new Flammulated sites (CB, MLo). At a previously reported site, Powderhorn, Colo., two Flammulateds and one Pygmy Owl were calling at the same time June 14 (KC). A late report came in of a Boreal Owl at Jackson May 15 (*vide* BR). Two s.w. Colorado observations of *Chaetura* swifts could have been of either Chimney or Vaux's: one near Platoro July 14 (MLo) and 3 observations at Ridgway (JRG).

HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS—Jackson had 6 or more observations of Black-chinned Hummingbirds (BR)—the only reports outside their "normal range." The season's first Rufous Hummingbird came to Jarbidge, Nev., June 21, 6 days earlier than last year (EB). Jefferson saw the first Colorado Rufous July 5 (CH, KH), and they arrived in many Colorado mountain locations in early July—2-3 weeks before they arrived in n. Wyoming, and before a flock of 50 zipped around Tony Grove L., near Logan July 24 (KA). Large hummingbirds included a female at Brighton, Utah, probably a Rivoli's (*vide* GK), and a male June 15 at

Ridgway identified as a Blue-throated (JRG).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—All Colorado latilongs have now recorded nesting W. Kingbirds, with a nest found this summer at Eagle (JM). The Cassin's Kingbird nest at Hudson, with three young, gave w. Wyoming its first nesting record (BK). An adaptable pair of Say's Phoebes nested on the underside of a dump truck at Pueblo; each day the truck traveled at least 70 mi. The phoebes fledged at least one young July 15, and others earlier (VT). Winn commented on the extension of range by the Tree Swallow, which has dropped down to nest on the plains around Denver and become commoner in its mountain haunts. She pointed out that the Tree Swallow may affect other species which compete with them for nesting sites and possibly food; specifically, "I do think the Violet-greens have had a hard time these past 2 summers, and especially in 1979, when Violet-green nesting trees were taken over by Tree Swallows." **Purple Martins** nested at Summit L., near Dolores, Colo. (KS) providing Colorado's second nesting record (10 mi from the first one, reported last year), and one was observed near Meeker, Colo., another possible nesting site (JW).

NUTHATCHES TO VIREOS—A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches nested in Colorado Springs, a low elevation for the species (CLC). Different dens for different wrens: in Reno, House Wrens nested in Alves' yard, Bewick's in Hanf's yard. Northernmost Mockingbirds were a pair at Chugwater, Wyo., June 10 (RRo), and most elevated was one at 7500 ft w. of Boulder June 29 (H&AW). The Gray Catbird singing in the Ruby Mts. of Elko Co., Nev., June 17 (†ph, WEH), apparently on territory but also with no apparent mate, had picked a habitat similar to that of a pair seen 5 years ago near Baker, 100 mi s. (CL). The remote canyons of e. Nevada may support a small population of catbirds (CL). A pair of Brown Thrashers at Loveland, Colo., present all summer, may have nested (MHi). A pair of Bendire's Thrashers feeding a juvenile was compared directly with Sage Thrashers, near Bonanza, Utah May 30-June 4 (ARJ, MW). A Curve-billed Thrasher nest at Fountain, Colo., found June 29 (RWA) provides that species' northernmost breeding record. The candleabra cactus (*Opuntia arborescens*) in which it nests grows no farther n; this may limit the thrasher's N expansion. A Wood Thrush was singing at Idledale, Colo., June 21 (BP, m.ob.). A Gray-cheeked Thrush reportedly sang from a ponderosa-clad Genesee Mt., near Denver June 18-July 6 (JCo, RB). A Cedar Waxwing was found dead July 6 at 13,000 ft, near the summit of Cloud Peak in the Cloud Peak Wilderness of n. Wyoming (LHa).

WARBLERS—Warblers stayed late at Eureka: Yellow-rumped to the first week in June, Wilson's to June 9, Yellow to the last week in June; none is usually present past May 31 (JE). Nevada's first summer Black-and-white Warbler was foraging and singing near Wells July 6 (GA). On July 17, Blue-winged Warblers were sighted 200 mi apart, at Lajara and Littleton, Colo. (†MLo, MD)—a remarkable mid-summer date for a species with fewer than 20 Regional records. An Orange-crowned had built a nest on the ground at the foot of an aspen near Meeker, Colo., June 15-16 (JW). This provides one of the Region's first definite nesting records. A Magnolia Warbler was at Cheyenne June 7 (OKS) and one was found dead at Golden, Colo., June 2 (WF). Black-throated Gray Warblers discovered June 14 near Lander, Wyo., may nest in the juniper hills nearby (DN). Two ad. and three imm. Grace's Warblers were at Rye, Colo., July 27 (D.F.O.). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was singing at Dyer, Nev., June 1 (†JD, CAD). A pair of Chestnut-sideds found July 9 near Lyons, Colo., probably nested (F.A.C.). Late Bay-breasteds were at Dyer June 1 (RWe, *vide* JD) and Denver June 9 (HEK). An Ovenbird ventured into the foothills at Evergreen, Colo., July 5 (WWB). Northern Waterthrushes were singing at Jackson June 16 (B&WM) and, for the sixth year, at Sheridan July 10-23; the Sheridan birds have not been confirmed as breeding (HD, MC).

BLACKBIRDS—A ♂ Hooded Oriole visited Pahrnatag Valley July 1, a location from which it is infrequently reported (MP). An isolated nesting population of **Scott's Orioles** occupies 400 square mi straddling the Utah/Colorado border between Bonanza and Rangely. In the past 2 years, territorial adults, singing males, and juveniles have been found in 6 different sites between Red Wash, Utah, and Rangely, May 31-Aug. 14 (ARJ, BHG). They had been reported from the Utah section in 1936, but not since. This leapfrogs the known nesting range of the Scott's Oriole 300 mi e. from w. Utah and provides Colorado's first nesting records. One pair of Great-tailed Grackles nested at a new Colorado site, Totten Res., near Cortez (KS). Common Grackles now nest in the mountains at Eldora, Colo., Walden (a new latilong—F&JJ), Gunnison, and Dubois.

FINCHES, SPARROWS—Indigo Buntings nested at Loveland, Colo., (FH), and territorial pairs graced Caliente, Nev., and Sheridan (MP, HD). Two near Jarbidge June 11 had moved fairly far N. (EB). Dickcissels returned to Sheridan after a 3-year absence, nine on June 27 was a record count (HD, WEH). Cassin's Finches delayed their movement to the high country, and some even stayed in the valleys to nest. Family groups

and flocks were reported from Dubois, Cody, Salt Lake City, Glenwood Springs, Gunnison, and Jarbidge. On July 29, 300 had gathered at Cedar Breaks N.M., Utah (RP). Back's Black Rosy Finch backpack this year (July 8-9) found a female strongly attached to a ledge with a grassy, nest-like structure, but a confirmed nest remains undiscovered. Small groups of White-winged Crossbills were in Grand Teton N.P., July 26-31 (P&JW, BR). The Lark Bunting has become the most common nesting species—with 300 pairs—in Pueblo West, a nascent subdivision and recreational development in which no grazing has occurred for 11 years (VT). On the Sheridan B.B.S., their numbers have risen, and on July 11, 500 had flocked with 200 Vesper and 200 Lark sparrows (HD). West of the Lark Bunting's range, at Logan and Randolph, Utah, 3-6 were seen June 9 & 14 and July 3 (KA); a dozen were seen between Lander, Dubois, and Cody June 18-July 4 (MB). An incursion of Grasshopper Sparrows brought a string of records to e. Colorado and Wyoming: 11 at Sheridan in July (WEH, HD), three singing males per irrigated field around Casper June 1-Aug. 1 (OKS), birds near Colorado Springs June 29 & July 15 (EW), and six seen in the Arkansas Valley July 26-27 (D.F.O.). Near Cheyenne were at least three singing Baird's Sparrows

July 4-11 (OKS); the species is regarded as an uncommon migrant in Wyoming, and this represents a new latilong record as well. At Pueblo West, Cassin's Sparrows have benefited from the growth of prairie grass and sagebrush, like the Lark Buntings; 19 pairs were there this summer (VT).

ABBREVIATIONS—B.B.S.:—U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey; Latilong: 3600-square mile block formed by 1°N latitudes and 1°W longitudes; R.M.N.P.: Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

/Kenn Kaufman, John P. Hubbard and Janet Witzeman

Torrid-zone temperatures prevailed, but there was little of avian novelty along the Mexican frontier (aside from one hummingbird, and a very good passerine that got away). The big discoveries were all farther north: New Mexico had its first confirmed instances of breeding for Wilson's Phalarope and Savannah Sparrow, and Arizona recorded its first nesting ever for Hammond's Flycatcher and first in the 20th century for Belted Kingfisher. Another highlight was the accumulation of lesser discoveries made during an intensive survey of the Pecos Valley (herein abbreviated "P.V.") in eastern New Mexico.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS—A Com. Loon was at Painted Rock Dam July 26, for one of Arizona's very few summer records away from the L.C.R. (KK *et al.*). Also very unusual for summer were two Horned Grebes in partial breeding plumage at L. McMillan, N.M., June 9 (WH). Western Grebes, first recorded breeding in Arizona in 1973 on the L.C.R., established a new nesting locality this summer, with downy young seen July 26 at Painted Rock Dam (GR). A W. Grebe seen June 18 at Weatherly L., n.e. N.M. (JPH), was e. of the usual summer range.

A new breeding locality for Double-crested Cormorant was Abiquiu L., N.M., where 3 nests were seen June 28 and later (KP *et al.*); rising waters subsequently destroyed the nests (*vide* Ed Swenson). The species was also found nesting at Painted Rock Dam for a second year (GR *et al.*). The only magnificent

Frigatebird of the period was an immature n. of Cibola N.W.R., July 18 (TS).

A concentration of 500-600 Cattle Egrets in the Dome Valley July 7 (RM, Gwen Robinson) established a new high count for Arizona; as in recent years, 50-60 birds had been present through June. The species may well be found breeding in this area. Louisiana Herons staged an influx into the lower P.V., with singles at L. McMillan July 1 (WH), Loving July 3 (WH *et al.*), and Bitter Lake N.W.R., July 26-27 (D&SH). An ad. Little Blue Heron at Arlington July 15 (SB) followed about a dozen previous Arizona records. A **Reddish Egret** visited a golf course pond near Phoenix July 14-18 (PB, CH, ph—S<); there were only 3 previous Arizona records, none since 1960 (although one came close recently at Imperial Dam on the L.C.R.).

WATERFOWL—Eleven Canada Geese on the Pecos R., 27 mi n.e. of Roswell, N.M., July 24 (WH) were unexpected. A pair of **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks**, erratic breeders in Arizona, fledged six young at Tucson. Notable breeding records in New Mexico included single broods of shovellers at Kirtland July 29 (APN), Com. Mergansers at Medenales June 8 (C. Hundertmark), and Ruddy Ducks at Zuni June 22 (AS), while in Arizona a pair of **Blue-winged Teal** with four



young seen July 1 in the Chino Valley (CT) were notable. A pair of Mexican Ducks persisted at L. McMillan, N.M., where noted July 10 & 27 (WH *et al.*).

Possibly indicative of local breeding, many Redheads persisted near Zuni through June 21, when the observer (AS) had to depart; twelve were seen July 4 at Red L., on the Arizona-New Mexico border (GR, KVR). Unusual summer non-breeders included a ♂ Bufflehead and a pair of Lesser Scaup at Zuni June 21-22 (AS), and an eclipse-plumaged Com. Goldeneye at Bitter Lake N.W.R., July 19 (WH) and July 27 (NJ).

RAPTORS—At least 11 Mississippi Kites were seen July 14 in Roswell (WH) where rarely reported in recent years. The breeding colony at the Clovis, N.M., golf course was down to about five pairs, and unaggressive compared to the 15-20 that harassed golfers



Reddish Egret, Phoenix, Ariz., July 14, 1980.
Photo/Scott and Linda Terrill.

there last year (Randy Johnson). Small numbers of Marsh Hawks summered in the P.V., from Ft. Sumner s. to Loving; single adults were seen carrying food in the Artesia area June 16 & July 10 (WH).

S.A.

Although we'd rather avoid the subject, accumulated events demand this comment: every year, dozens of birders search specifically for Aplomado Falcons in s.e. Arizona. Every year, some (including a few competent, conscientious observers) claim success. But analysis indicates that *all* of these reports are based upon distant views, process-of-elimination reasoning, and the assumption that the species is "known to be present." This latter assumption is completely false in Arizona's case (although New Mexico has more recent reliable records); here, to our knowledge, there has not been a documented record for more than seventy years and not even a believable sighting within the last forty, despite published claims to the contrary.

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS, TERNS—Although there is justifiable concern for the Snowy Plover in some quarters, it undeniably succeeds in exploiting temporary conditions here. Three pairs were at Painted Rock Dam June 14 (S<, KVR,GR), and many pairs with downy young were noted there July 13 and subsequently (R&JW *et al.*). We know of only one previous instance of breeding at Painted Rock (in 1974, when water-levels and shoreline conditions were similar) and only one other breeding locality in Arizona (in artificial habitat at Willcox). At Bosque del Apache N.W.R., N.M., 15 Snowy Plovers including a flightless juvenile were seen July 19 (D&SH), for the first recent breeding record.

A single Com. Snipe was again found July 7 (GR *et al.*) at Springerville, Ariz., where the species bred historically. A Long-billed Curlew seen June 2 at Horse L. (RLT) was w. of the usual summer range in New Mexico. A

Whimbrel at Painted Rock Dam June 14 (S<,GR, ph—KVR) was remarkably early (or late?), as the species is generally a rare migrant in July-August and very rare in spring; still notable for the number and early date were six near Poston, Ariz., July 4 (MK).

Because the spring and fall migrations of Wilson's Phalarope seem to merge imperceptibly during June, some of us have paid too little attention to summer occurrences. That attitude might be altered by the June 30 discovery of an adult with a downy young at Bluewater L. (AM,BM,PG,TL), the first recorded breeding ever for New Mexico and the Region. Coincidentally, two pairs were found June 7-8 in apparently suitable nesting habitat near Springerville, Ariz. (DS).

With the gradual clarification of the status of gull species in the Region, summer records of California Gulls are increasing. This year one was at L. McMillan, N.M., July 21 (MA *et al.*), and three were at Painted Rock Dam, Ariz., July 26 (KK,DS,KVR,GR). Unseasonal single Franklin's Gulls in Arizona were at Painted Rock Dam June 14 (S< *et al.*) and Ganado L. July 5 (GR *et al.*), while at L. McMillan, N.M., June records of Franklin's Gulls and Forster's Terns were considered unusual (WH). At Bitter Lake N.W.R., where the Least Tern is a rare breeder, two adults and three fledglings were seen July 19 (WH). A single Least Tern near Cibola N.W.R., June 19-20 (RM,BW), provided about the seventh Arizona record and third for the L.C.R.

OWLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS—At least two Saw-whet Owls and a Long-eared Owl on Bill Williams Mt., w. of Flagstaff, during the summer, established new locality records for these uncommon and local species (CT). The Elf Owl has lost ground at its w. limits, so it was encouraging to hear of two at the Yuma Proving Grounds June 4 (G. Robinson).

Continuing its uneven march N across Arizona, the Buff-collared Nighthawk was discovered at a new locality, Aravaipa Canyon. Up to three (or more) were heard and seen at two points in the canyon from spring into August (S&LM,TJ,m.ob.). A new n. locality for Lesser Nighthawk in the P.V. was 10 mi s. of Ft. Sumner, where a male was taken (* to Ariz. St. Univ.) and other birds observed July 9 (TH).

Chimney Swifts again summered in Tucson, their only "regular" Arizona locality, with two or more seen during June and July (DS,BB). In e. New Mexico, one was near L. McMillan June 3 (TH); three in Clayton June 18 (JPH) were the first reported there in several summers, although WC had seen them there in the 1970s. Eight White-throated Swifts near Mosquero, N.M., June 17 (JPH) were near the e. limits of probable breeding. A probable Black Swift over Lake Peak, N.M., marked the third summer of record there. Who will take up the challenge to find a nest?

It was a generally poor summer for hummingbird variety in Arizona, with no definite Beryllines or White-eareds, and single Lucifers only at Portal and Guadalupe Canyon. The one exception was provided by a Plain-capped Starthroat near Sierra Vista

June 28 (KVR,TB); Arizona has only 3 documented records, although a number of other probable reports suggest the species may be semi-regular in the Nogales region. In New Mexico, notable e. records were single ♂ Rufous Hummingbirds n.e. of Roswell July 18 and at Artesia July 19-31, and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds n.e. of Roswell June 5 and s.e. of Artesia in mid-July (WH *et al.*).

KINGFISHERS THROUGH FLY-CATCHERS—A Belted Kingfisher nest with nestlings was found in late May on Spring Creek, near Sedona (S. Emslie, *vide* CT; details to be published elsewhere). This was Arizona's first definite breeding in this century, although suspicious summer records have been frequent; this year, for example, one was near Portal June 7-10 (HB) and three were seen near Springerville July 7 (CH). Kingfishers also summered in small numbers in the P.V., from the Roswell area to Loving, but no nest was found (WH *et al.*).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were unusually widespread and numerous in e. New Mexico: up to 20 pairs were in the P.V., from Ft. Sumner to Artesia, with a nest found at Artesia June 20 (WH *et al.*); a straggler reached Farmington July 30 (J. Nordstrom, *vide* APN). A N. Three-toed Woodpecker was seen July 5 in the Arizona section of the Chuska Mts. (GR,KVR), for a first local record.

An E. Kingbird at Patagonia July 13 (RS) was among the very few ever seen in s.e. Arizona. Cassin's Kingbirds near the probable e. breeding limits in New Mexico were four at Seneca June 19 and one near Logan June 17 (JPH). A Tropical Kingbird in the Dome Valley, Ariz., June 9 (†RM) was probably an overshooting migrant, while a pair near Sierra Vista June 28 (KVR) indicated a new probable breeding area. An E. Phoebe at Folsom Falls, N.M., June 20 was the second recorded there, but near El Pueblo (where it bred last year) none was detected June 16 (JPH); one was reported June 10 at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. (RLT). A Black Phoebe at Zuni June 1-22 (AS) was n. of the usual range in New Mexico.

Attention to difficult identifications paid off with a new breeding species for Arizona, a pair of Hammond's Flycatchers with a nest in the Chuska Mts., found July 4 (KVR,GR, ph—S<); details will be published elsewhere. Remarkable was a Coues' Flycatcher in the Dome Valley, s.w. Arizona, June 9 (†RM), geographically and ecologically far removed from any breeding locale. A new summering area for the Beardless Flycatcher was the Portal region, where at least two were seen during June and July (*vide* SS).

SWALLOWS THROUGH MIMIDS—Violet-green Swallows established a first local summer record in New Mexico with three near Mosquero June 17 (JPH). Tree Swallows, only recently found nesting in Arizona, were present in numbers again at Lee Valley Res., White Mts. (DS); one in the Chuska Mts., July 4 (KVR *et al.*) suggested another possible breeding site.

Two Blue Jays were seen June 28 at Ft. Sumner, perhaps a new breeding locality for New Mexico, and one was in Roswell July 19 (WH *et al.*). Common Crows at n.e. limits in

New Mexico were two in the easternmost Dry Cimarron Valley June 19 and one near Logan June 18 (JPH). In Arizona, Clark's Nutcrackers are known to be regular residents only in the White and San Francisco Mts., so three in the Chuskas July 4 (GR *et al.*) and 26 on Bill Williams Mt., June 11 (CT), were noteworthy. A Curve-billed Thrasher near Oatman July 30 (†RM) was n.w. of the usual Arizona range, and several Crissal Thrashers n.e. of Roswell in June-July (WH *et al.*) provided additional n. records for the P.V.

THRUSHES THROUGH SILKY-FLY-CATCHERS—A probable Rufous-backed Robin was reported June 3-4 in Guadalupe Canyon, Ariz. (CB, †J. Frank *et al.*); the state has only one well-supported summer record. Two Veeries and three Swainson's Thrushes were singing on territory in July in the South Fork area near Springerville, the only Arizona point where either is known to summer regularly (Bjo *et al.*). A very late migrant Swainson's Thrush was in Phoenix June 15 (SRD). Three Townsend's Solitaires noted June 7 in the Gallinas Mts., s.c. New Mexico (GS), provided a first local summer record.

A Water Pipit under a lawn sprinkler near Alto, s.c. New Mexico, July 2 (NJ) was well out of range for the date. Also near Alto, ten Cedar Waxwings seen July 3 (NJ) constituted the first local summer report. A probable ♀ Phainopepla was reported June 10 or 11 at Albuquerque (J. & N. Dille), well n. of usual limits.

In the summer's most tantalizing event, an extremely competent observer had a brief view of a Gray Silky-Flycatcher flying with Phainopeplas near Patagonia July 17. Abundant in parts of w. Mexico, this species remains unrecorded in the United States. Although this individual was never relocated, and it will not be submitted as a formal record, observers clearly should keep this species in mind henceforth.

VIREOS, WARBLERS—Totally unexpected was a **Yellow-green Vireo** at a desert oasis near Theba, Ariz., July 13-15 (GR *et al.*, ph—RW). There were about 3 previous state records, none documented by specimen or photos, all May-July in riparian zones of the extreme s.e.

Orange-crowned Warblers are quite local as breeders in Arizona, so of interest were eight in the Chuska Mts., July 4-6 (GR, ST *et al.*), a pair at Rustler Park, Chiricahua Mts., July 17 (RM), and the report that the species was common throughout the summer at Hart Prairie near Flagstaff (DRP). More depressing was the news that no Yellow Warblers were found summering in the P.V., where the species might have been expected (WH *et al.*); status of Yellow Warblers in all riparian zones of the Southwest should be monitored. Evincing a gradual range expansion NW, an Olive Warbler was present through the summer on Bill Williams Mt., w. of Flagstaff; one (previously unreported) was also there May-July 1979 (CT).

Seasonally unexpected were summer Townsend's Warblers in New Mexico, one in the Sacramento Mts., June 19 (WH), and one near Taos on and around June 23 (Walton Hawk); equally odd was a Yellow-rumped

(Audubon's) Warbler in the lowlands at Patagonia July 1 (KG). Summer straggler ♀-plumaged Am. Redstarts occurred in the P.V. near Roswell June 13 and Artesia July 4 (WH *et al.*). Near Springerville, Ariz., where the species has nested previously, two ♂ Am. Redstarts were present during June and July, but no female was seen (Bjo *et al.*).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS—Bobolinks summer rarely and sporadically in the Region. Near Springerville, where the species nested last year, a pair was found July 7 (RD, GR, KVR); one was reported in late June at Parkview, a traditional New Mexico locality (KP). Five E. Meadowlarks singing near Logan, N.M., June 18 (JPH) were n. of usual areas. A scattering of extralimital Orchard Orioles occurred, with singles in Arizona June 14 at Theba (GR, †ST *et al.*) and near Nogales (DS), one at Glenwood, N.M., June 30 (*fide* BMCK), and another earlier nearby at Cliff (*fide* JE). A ♂ Northern (Baltimore) Oriole, very rare in Arizona, was at Portal June 4-7 (B&MS, W&SS). Single ♂ Scott's Orioles notably far n. in New Mexico were n. of Farmington June 13-14 (APN), near La Liendre and near Trementina June 16 (JPH).

Great-tailed Grackles in new or infrequent areas of occurrence included one at Hart Prairie above Flagstaff June 1 (DRP) and, in New Mexico, at least four at Ft. Sumner in June (WH), three at La Plata June 15 (APN), and one at Sandia Park June 21 (HS). Common Grackles are expanding and consolidating their New Mexico range: they bred again at Farmington (APN), and three or four adults were carrying food in June at Zuni (AS). When will Arizona get a record?

A Hepatic Tanager seen June 17 near Mosquero, N.M. (JPH), was in a new area of occurrence. Summer Tanagers were found to be numerous in the P.V., n. to Ft. Sumner (WH *et al.*).

FRINGILLIDS—Evidently Indigo Bunting populations in s.e. Arizona continue to increase; ten or more males were on territory near Portal this season, and a nest was found July 26 (W&SS). Indigos were also fairly common in the lower P.V., from Roswell to L. McMillan (WH *et al.*). Varied Buntings, invading from a different direction, had notable locality records with two near Portal during the summer (RMO, SS) and one near Sierra Vista June 28 (KVR). Southeast of usual areas, at least five Lazuli Buntings were singing near Villanueva, N.M., June 16 (JPH); seven were seen June 15 (but not later) s.e. of Artesia (MA). Painted Buntings were unexpectedly widespread in the P.V., common in the s., and in small numbers n. to 10 mi s. of Ft. Sumner (WH *et al.*). A ♂ Painted Bunting near Mesilla, N.M., July 4-7 (L. & P. Hartshorne) was also notable.

Single Cassin's Finches in peripheral areas were at Santa Fe July 24 (JPH) and Capulin Canyon, Sandia Mts., June 21 (HS). Two Pine Grosbeaks were feeding fledglings at Sheep's Crossing, White Mts., June 7-8 (DS); although the species is resident in Arizona's boreal zones, there has been little direct evidence of breeding.

Juveniles seen July 10 (CT) indicated a third definite Arizona breeding locale for Lawrence's Goldfinch: near Wickenburg,

where nesting was suspected last year. Proven nesting in the state is mostly a recent phenomenon, but a specimen in breeding condition was taken near Wickenburg in May 1953. Twenty Red Crossbills were seen in Farmington on the odd date of June 19 (APN).

Erratic in breeding distribution, Lark Buntings were present in n.e. New Mexico in June, including in Union County and between Las Vegas and Mosquero (JPH), a male near Nageezi June 28 (GS) was w. of normal summer limits. The Savannah Sparrow was confirmed as a breeding species in New Mexico when a nest was found June 30 at Bluewater L., in an area supporting several pairs (RB, BM, AM, TL); there have been summer records suggestive of nesting in the n.c. section of the state, but this area is somewhat farther s. In New Mexico, Grasshopper Sparrows are recorded in summer rarely only in the extreme n.e., so one singing near Sabinoso June 17 and one carrying food near Albert June 18 (JPH) were significant. Rufous-crowned Sparrows are rare and local in n.e. New Mexico, so noteworthy were records of 11 near Mosquero June 17 and two near Folsom Falls June 19-20 (JPH). Remarkable for the season was a Gray-headed Junco in Cave Creek Canyon above Portal June 27 (KG); the bird displayed some characteristics of the sedentary s. race *dorsalis*, very rare at Portal even in winter.

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ALASKA REGION

/D.D. Gibson

Summer 1980 produced variable weather in the Region, generally wet and cool in many areas, but there were many interesting breeding and distribution records established during the period.

HERONS—There was no record this summer of Am. Bittern at Barnes L., Stikine R. (MR)—the only locality in Alaska where it regularly occurs—but high water was likely responsible. A **Great Egret** observed at Eagle Beach, Juneau, June 22 († and ph RHA & †FAG) provided the first Alaska record of this heron.

WATERFOWL—A **Ross' Goose** observed at the Canning R. delta June 13 (PDM) numbers among few recent Alaska records, all summer birds on the arctic coast.

"Duck [population] indices overall [in spring 1980] were the highest on record [J.G. King and B. Conant 1980, "Alaska-Yukon Waterfowl Breeding Pair Survey, May 14-June 14, 1980," U.S.F.&W.S., Juneau], with dabblers up 95%, divers up 42% and all species combined up 67% from 1979, a year of nearly average numbers. Large increases for virtually all duck species with spectacular increases for shoveler, Pintail, Canvasback and Redhead...[indicated that Alaska again hosted] fugitives from the drought-ridden prairie lands..." Mallards were up 45% from 1979, 51% above the ten-year average of these surveys; Am. Wigeon up 36%, 85% above the average; shovelers up 262%, 275% above; Pintails up 149%, 99% above; Canvasbacks up 145%, 102% above; Redheads up 193%, 128% above. The investigators stated further, however, "Past experience has shown that when the dabbling [duck] habitat is choked with drought-displaced dabblers, production suffers. Hunters in Alaska have been disappointed before when they have interpreted inflated breeding populations to mean optimum hunting."

All of the following waterfowl records are related to the phenomenon outlined above. Single very late ♂ Eur. Wigeon were present at Mt. McKinley N.P., June 1 (KK)—a first local record, at Anchorage June 12 (KP, *vide* RA), at Juneau June 21 (RHA), and at Old Chevak July 6 (CMB & RAW); single males at *Icy Cape* in early June (WAL & SEQ) and at *Barrow* June 15-16 (BJM) provided the second and third n. Alaska records. Two pairs of Gadwall at the Canning R. delta June 7 (PDM) furnished the second n. Alaska record. A pair of Blue-winged Teal near Galbraith L., July 7 (JSH & DRH) produced a second n. Alaska record (see *AB* 33:889). *Seventy-six* Blue-winged Teal were counted at Gasoline L., upper Tanana R. valley, July 23 (JLT), and 50 more were seen at adjacent Butterfly L. the same day (*vide* JLT), but only two broods were seen.

Canvasbacks were recorded as far w. as the Bering and Chukchi seas, where 100 were seen at Safety Sound, near Nome June 7, and 200 were seen on marine waters near Kotzebue June 9 (King & Conant 1980). A ♂ Redhead near Galbraith L., July 9 (JSH & DRH) numbers among very few seen in n. Alaska,

and a ♂ Ring-necked Duck near Happy Valley, middle Sagavanirktok R., May 31 (CH & DR) seems to establish a first record for n. Alaska.

RAILS—Soras were recorded in several places on the lower Stikine R., s.e. Alaska, in July (MR), and two were heard at Moon L., upper Tanana R. valley (RJR), where the species might have been expected to occur as a consequence of the prairie drought. The discovery of at least three pairs of **Am. Coots** with downy young at Yarger L., upper Tanana R. valley, July 4-5 (†GJT & MMT) provided the first Alaska breeding record of the species. An adult feeding two downies was seen on the 4th, and pairs with three, two, and one young were seen on the 5th. A total of 13 adults was seen on the latter date. Ten adults and 12 young were seen at that location July 22-24, and ten adults and at least one young were seen at nearby Gasoline L., July 23 (JLT). Elsewhere, an Am. Coot spent the summer at Potter Marsh, Anchorage, where it was a casual visitant June 22 (RA *et al.*) through Aug. 25 (SRJ).

SHOREBIRDS—In general, densities of regularly-breeding, common shorebirds at Barrow were down this year, some of them significantly (*e.g.*, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Dunlin); in contrast, a few of the sporadic breeders (N. Phalarope, Long-billed Dowitcher) bred in the highest densities of six years' study (BJM). A Greater Yellowlegs at *Barrow* June 7 (BJM) provided a first n. Alaska record, and a Solitary Sandpiper there June 21 (BJM, TGT) provided a second local record, perhaps only the second for the arctic coast of Alaska. A pair of Surfbirds at 500 m in alpine tundra near Olga Bay, Kodiak, in late June (RAM), suggested breeding on that island, where nesting has not yet been substantiated. Two breeding-plumaged **Little Stints** were substantiated in Alaska this summer—one at Gambell, St. Lawrence I., June 9 (BFK, m.ob.) and one at Pt. Barrow June 23 (GEH & BJM). There is only one unequivocal prior record in the State. Rufous-necked Sandpipers, following an impressive spring passage in the Bering Sea, occurred as far n. as Barrow, two on June 7 and one June 17 (BJM), but there was no evidence of breeding there this year. At least one ad. Dunlin with a barely-flying juvenile at Redoubt Bay, Cook Inlet, July 17 (JSH & DRH) was most interesting; only in the recent past was the species found breeding on the Copper R. Delta—the only other nesting location known on the Alaska Pacific coast. An ad. ♂ Ruff at *Prudhoe Bay* June 18-21 (CH & DR), providing

the third local record in as many years, was not the individual seen there in 1978 and again in 1979.

GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS—Single Red-legged Kittiwakes were seen far at sea in the n. Gulf of Alaska on two occasions this summer—one at 58°07'N 145°00'W on June 29 (PH) furnished the easternmost Alaska record in the Pacific Ocean. Not unprecedented in the Gulf, such occurrences probably involve nonbreeding birds. A few Aleutian Terns were present in the Kenai-Kasilof R. mouth area this summer, the first local occurrence in several years (MAM); this species was found common, breeding, and widespread in the Yakutat area this summer (SMP). Three **Dovekies** observed at close range from a ship 5 mi off Vsevidof I., Aleutians, July 11 (†RHD) were unprecedented, the first sighting in the Aleutians of this species, for which there has occurred only one other Regional record s. of St. Lawrence I. A pair of Marbled Murrelets was observed on *Lake Aleknagik*, n. of Dillingham, June 14 (MEI). The species occurs on freshwater in a number of localities adjacent to saltwater (and, presumably, adjacent also to breeding areas), but this occurrence may reflect breeding in the s. Kilbuck-Kuskokwim Mts., where the species has not been known at all.

CUCKOOS, GOATSUCKERS—A hepatic ♀ Com. Cuckoo, told in this color phase



from the similar Oriental Cuckoo by its unbarred rump and uppertail coverts, was observed at St. Paul I., Pribilof Is., June 16 (†TGT *et al.*). This bird provided the second Alaska record of a Com. Cuckoo of this color phase. A Com. Nighthawk at *Pt. Barrow* June 30 (GEH) established the second n. Alaska record, 39 years to the week after the first, at that location July 6, 1941.

FLYCATCHERS, THRUSHES—An E. Kingbird was seen July 26 at Juneau (RHA), where the species is all-but-annual. It is only casual w. of Southeastern, however; one in the Susitna R. highlands, n. of Talkeetna, July 11 (DDG & BAC) numbers among few c. Alaska records. A single Bluethroat at Barrow June 4 and two seen on the 5th (BJM) were regular spring visitors; one female seen 12 mi upriver from *Prudhoe Bay* June 9 (CH & DR) furnished a first local record. This last bird was nearing the e. limits of the breeding range, recently found to include extreme n. Yukon Territory (see *Canad. Field-Nat.* 88:85, 1974; *Murrelet* 56:5-8, 1975).

BLACKBIRDS, SPARROWS—Casual anywhere in Alaska, a **Yellow-headed Black-**

bird, a first-year male, was observed July 12-13 at Potter Marsh, Anchorage, where it provided a first local record (SS,RA,RF, DWS,†GJT & MMT). A singing ♂ Brown-headed Cowbird was observed at *Anchorage* June 9 (TGT), perhaps the same male present on the 16th (DWS *et al.*), a pair on June 25 (JCP,GJT), and two males were seen displaying to a female at the same location June 29 (DWS). A juvenile cowbird following a family group of White-crowned Sparrows in this area July 28 (TGT) looked suspiciously like a first State breeding record, but the adult sparrows were not seen to feed the young cowbird. A Chipping Sparrow closely studied at *Anchorage* July 26 (†GJT,JLT) provided the second local record and one of very few records ever in Southcoastal Alaska as a whole.

ABBREVIATIONS—†, details on file U.A.M.; ph., photo on file U.A.M.; m.ob., many observers.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Bill Harrington-Tweit,
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Mount St. Helens erupted three more times during the period, sending out limited amounts of ash in comparison with the May 18 eruption. This added to the thick layer over the northern half of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in the southern Washington Cascades and dusted additional areas of southwest Washington and northwest Oregon. BHT surveyed bird populations in several areas of heavy ashfall and found the numbers of insectivorous foragers in the canopy level significantly reduced from last year. Seed eaters and more generalized foragers showed only minor declines, if any.

Early June was wetter and colder than usual throughout the Region, based on the Vancouver, B.C., Seattle, Portland, and Medford weather stations. Thereafter in western Washington and Oregon the weather was quite warm and dry. Southern British Columbia, however, remained wetter and cooler than usual, with twice the normal rainfall in both months. Lost clutches of many species were noted throughout in early June, with most being blamed on the almost constant rain. By mid-July second broods were widely reported for many passerine species, and during August apparent third broods of Bewick's Wrens and White-crowned Sparrows were noted.

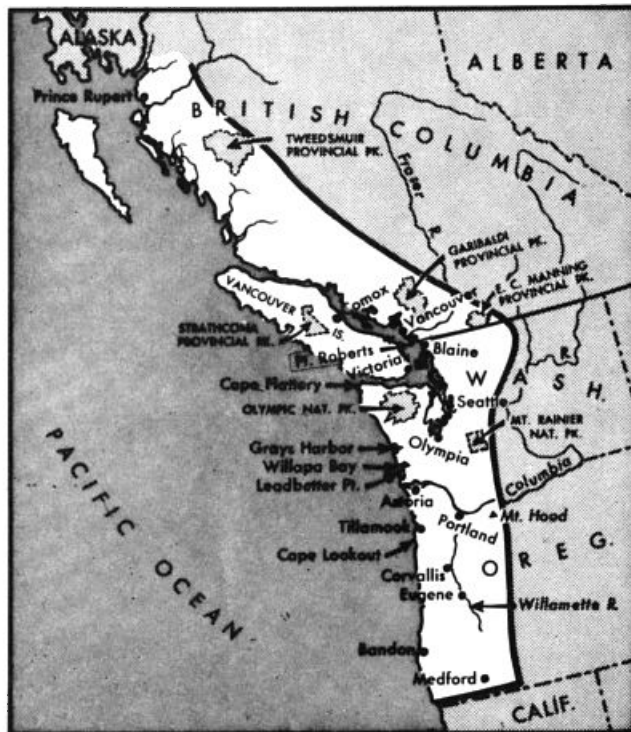
LOONS THROUGH DUCKS—An ad. and an imm. Com. Loon were seen July 30 at Matheson L., on s. Vancouver I. (hereafter, V.I.) (B&MMe, *fide* VG). Another brood was on Mirror L., w. of Campbell R., V.I. (HT). Recent breeding reports for the Region are confined to these sites. A breeding-plumaged Yellow-billed Loon in the Queen Charlotte Is., July 13 (MS,GS, *fide* VG) furnished the fifth summer record for the Region in 11 years. Yellow-billed Loons are not known to



Yellow-billed Loon, Netarts Bay, Ore., May 4, 1980. Photo/Owen Schmidt. (AB 34:807).

breed s. of the Bering Sea coast of Alaska. An Eared Grebe at the Warrenton sewage ponds July 26 (JG, *fide* HN) provided the first summer record for w. Oregon, although the species is a common breeder to the e. Only 7 reports of W. Grebes were received, and only the s. V.I. area reported more than 25 birds. Summering W. Grebes have apparently declined. Twenty N. Fulmars were found off the Queen Charlotte Is., July 18 (MS, *fide* VG). None was seen on the July 20 pelagic trip off Westport, Wash. (TW, BHT). Fulmars have been reported off our coast every summer 1970-1978, generally in the 100s, but they have been very scarce the last 2 summers.

An ad. and an imm. Brown Pelican were at Grays Harbor, Wash., by June 7 (G&WH) and small numbers could be found along the Oregon coast in early June (m.ob.), almost a month earlier than usual. The colony of Double-crested Cormorants in Grays Harbor, first formed last summer with 100 nests, has increased to 300 nests this summer (JS). Nesting pairs of Green Herons were found near Bellingham and Sultan, Wash., in June (TW, ME). Adults with immatures were seen at Duncan (JC) and Saanich, V.I. (RS, LR, *fide* VG), and in Seattle (DH, MDo) and Renton, Wash. (ES). A Great Egret nest with two young July 12 at the N. spit of Coos Bay (AM) established the first Regional nesting record for this species. A single Great Egret was at Iona I., near Vancouver, B.C., June 11 (†DK), for the first summer record for that



area. The report of four ad and an imm Black-crowned Night Heron on the Rogue R., below Grant's Pass, Oregon, in late June (D&CM) could indicate breeding in the Region.

Five broods of Gadwall were reported at the Montlake fill, Seattle, in late June (ER). This is one of few breeding sites within the Region. Broods of Blue-winged Teal were found at the Nehalem, Oreg., sewage ponds June 21 (DI, JG, *fide* HN) and in Saanich, V.I., July 26 (RS, *fide* VG). Broods of either Blue-winged or Cinnamon Teal were at the Elk R. mouth, near Port Orford, Oregon (JR, DR) and at Ocean Shores, Wash. (G&WH). These Oregon records would be first breeding records for either teal on the outer coast of that state. The N. Shoveler bred at the Montlake fill, Seattle (ER). A female Ring-necked Duck with a brood of five young June 2 on Ruff Res., near Morton, Wash., provided a rare breeding record for the Region (RR). Coverage of sewage lagoons throughout the Region yielded an interesting list of summering ducks: Am. Wigeon, Greater and Lesser scaup, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Duck. The Ruddy bred at the Iona I. sewage ponds, B.C. (DK), at the Everett, Wash., sewage ponds (B&PE), and at Waughop L., near Tacoma (NC, *fide* TB). Oldsquaw summered at Lopez I., (SA) and Dungeness (FK, KG), Wash., Victoria, V.I., (RS, *fide* VG), and Boundary Bay and Vancouver, B.C. (JWm, BK).

KITES THROUGH RAILS—There were no reports of White-tailed Kites from anywhere in the Region this summer. Just 2 summers ago there were four known breeding pairs in Oregon, and the breeding population seemed to be increasing. There were 7 reports of Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 15 of Cooper's Hawks, including one Cooper's nest in Oak Bay, V.I. (E&AD, *fide* VG). Marsh Hawk breeding was indicated at Ocean Shores, Wash., the S.J.C.R., and Fern Ridge Res., Oregon. Otherwise, singles were noted at 4 locations inland in w. Washington, and at the Elk R. mouth, Oreg., where summer records are unusual. Osprey is generally doing well. "Fair numbers" were reported in the Willamette Valley (HN). Of 8 nests watched in the Victoria area, 5 produced young, and 3 of these were new nests (*fide* VG). Only one pair nested near Duncan, V.I., however, in contrast to five pairs several years ago (JC). One Peregrine at Iona I., July 4 & 9, (CBu, MT, DK) furnished the only report.

Three White-tailed Ptarmigan were noted June 21 on Snoqualmie Peak, King Co., Wash., at the 5500 ft level (EH, AR). This species is rarely reported between Mts. Baker and Rainier. Another was seen July 27 on Three Brothers Mt., Manning P.P. (DMr), where it is also seldom reported. Thirty Sandhill Crane eggs were transferred from Idaho to the remnant breeding population at Pitt Meadows, near Vancouver, B.C., this summer. Twenty-five of these hatched and 19 had survived to late summer (*fide* WW). A pair of Sandhill Cranes summered at a pond near Santiam Pass, a short distance n. of the locale where the first breeding record for w. Oregon was obtained last summer (CBr, *fide* HN). The three birds May 19-June 9 on Sea I., near Vancouver, B.C., (m.ob., *fide* WW), and the three adults June 10 near Sequim, Wash.,

(WS), were probably very late migrants. Immatures of both Virginia Rail and Sora were seen during July in Seattle (ER) and in Saanich (NL, RS).

SHOREBIRDS—Downy young Black Oystercatchers were found at Heceta Head lighthouse, n. of Florence, Oreg., (CW), and at Dungeness spit, Wash. (FK). Up to five Semipalmated Plovers were present throughout the season at Iona I. (DK *et al.*), and a nest with 4 eggs was found June 3 on the w. jetty there (RP, *fide* WW). Several Semipalmated Plovers again defended territory in early June at Ocean Shores (G&WH), but no signs of successful breeding were noted. A **Snowy Plover** was photographed at Sandspit, on the e. side of the Queen Charlotte Is., July 12 (MS, GS, *fide* VG). The 3 previous provincial records were all from much farther s. Based on the position of the dark facial stripe and the tawny crown coloration, MS suggested that the bird may have been of a Eurasian subspecies. The Snowy Plover nesting area on Leadbetter Pt., Wash., was posted by the U.S.F.&W.S. against all human intrusion this summer. On July 9 RW noted that five pairs had produced five fledged young. Two young Snowies were seen June 22 on the N. spit of Coos Bay, Oreg. (EE).

Four Ruddy Turnstones at Leadbetter Pt., June 22 (HN) were probably summering, an event not previously documented in this Region. This makes it difficult to interpret the single Ruddy June 7 at Ocean Shores (G&WH) and the two at Dungeness Spit July 6 (FK, DS), which would otherwise appear to be the latest spring departure and earliest fall arrival dates, respectively, for Washington. There were many very early, or earliest ever, fall migrant arrivals. Some of these were: a Solitary Sandpiper July 12 in Seattle (ER), two Lesser Yellowlegs June 21 at Iona I. (DA), singles June 21 at S.J.C.R., (DI, JG) and June 27 in Seattle (ER), a Wandering Tattler July 7 at Oak Bay, V.I., (RS, *fide* VG) and two July 12 at Ocean Shores (DP), 40 Surfbirds July 12 at Ocean Shores (DP), single Semipalmated Sandpipers June 21 at Iona I. (DA), June 29 in Seattle (DP, ER) and June 30 on Cleland I., V.I. (MS, *fide* VG), single Baird's Sandpipers July 5 at Iona I. (RP) and July 12 in the Queen Charlotte Is. (MS, *fide* VG), and a Stilt Sandpiper June 20-21 at Iona I. (RP, DA). There were many more Semipalmated Sandpipers than usual seen this July in Seattle. All were at the few continuously monitored freshwater ponds on the Univ. of Wash. campus. Another very unusual Semipalmated report was of a *juvenile* collected at Ocean Shores on the very early date of July 12 (DP). There were two Red Knots at Leadbetter Pt., June 22 (HN).

A Marbled Godwit, quite rare in coastal B.C., was at Esquimalt Lagoon, V.I., July 25 (†JI, M&VG). Three sightings totaling 27 birds from the Washington coast were the only ones reported elsewhere. Two **Bar-tailed Godwits** were seen on Dungeness Spit June 10 (†WS), for the ninth record for that state. American Avocets rarely appear w. of the Cascades. The bird at Lopez I., Wash., June 17-18 (†SA) was the second seen in w. Washington this year. After the large on-shore flight in late May, a few Red Phalaropes lingered along the outer coast until mid-June.

The latest were singles at Tatoosh I., Wash., June 13-15 (BP, M&SDe—ph) and at Leadbetter Pt., June 18 (RW). Nine were seen offshore from Westport July 20 (TW *et al.*).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS—About 200 pairs of Glaucous-winged Gulls nested on downtown Seattle buildings and wharves (GE, paper in prep.), and single pairs nested on pilings at Edmonds (DP) and Kingston (EH, AR, PM), deep in Puget Sound. The Ring-billed Gull colony in Grays Harbor has increased annually since its inception in 1977. This year there were 45 pairs nesting (JS). A few other Ring-billeds were seen in June and early July at Leadbetter Pt., and Siletz Bay, near Lincoln City, Oreg. (HN). An *ad* Franklin's Gull was at Pt. No Point, n. of Port Gamble, Wash., June 14 (TB). There are few other regional records of mid-summer ad. stragglers of this species. Immatures appeared about on schedule, July 21 at Roberts Bank, near Vancouver, B.C. (BK), and July 22 at Clover Pt., Victoria (RS). The only sizeable flocks of summering Bonaparte's Gulls noted were around s. V I. Elsewhere there were dozens where there have been hundreds in previous summers. Black-legged Kittiwakes also summered in comparatively small numbers this year. A few Heermann's Gulls came N early. One had reached the Chain Is., off Oak Bay, V.I., by June 11 (BH, *fide* VG). The Caspian Tern colony in Grays Harbor had about 2200 nests (JS), an increase of 300 nests over last summer. In addition, 500-800 pairs nested on Gunpowder I., Willapa Bay, Wash., this summer (RW; FH, *fide* JS). To our knowledge, this island was last visited in 1977, when only 30 nests were found. Single Caspian Terns were n. on the e. coast of V.I., to near Campbell R., July 3 (HT) and on the w. coast to near Tofino June 29-30 (MS, *fide* VG), both at the n. limits of previous occurrence. The only Black Terns reported were singles in Seattle June 8 (BMU) and at Serpentine Fen, near Vancouver, B.C., June 15 (MHa).

A die-off of Common Murres was observed along the n. Oregon beaches in late July. HN estimated that three birds/mi were washed up on each tide for over a week, with the age-ratio being nine juveniles to one adult. A breeding-plumaged **Thick-billed Murre** photographed just offshore the Queen Charlotte Is., July 16 (MS, *fide* VG) was the first summer sighting of this species in the Region. A Horned Puffin appeared again at Protection I., w. of Port Townsend, Wash., in late June and stayed through July (KH, WS, FK). One had been present there in August last year. Three Horned Puffins were seen near Flatrock and Anthony Is., in the Queen Charlottes July 17+ (MS, *fide* VG). The species is a regular summer visitor there and has bred (*Am. Birds* 31:1181).

CUCKOOS THROUGH MARTINS—The riverbottom cottonwood habitat of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo found in late July last year near Sultan, Wash., was bulldozed in early July for a gravel-dredging operation. Weekly censuses there this year had found no cuckoos up to that time (ME). A pair of **Hawk Owls** delighted many observers by raising five young in a very accessible old burn near Buckhorn campground, Manning P.P.,

B C (*vide* JTo). They were discovered July 6 (SC) and were seen at least to August 10+ (SH) This location is about 450 mi s. of the species' known breeding range in the Peace R district of central British Columbia. Single Barred Owls were heard in different areas of Manning P.P., June 18 (WW) and July 4 (DK). An apparently wandering ad. Barred Owl was found June 6 in Discovery Park, Seattle, but could not be found thereafter (EH). Comments on the scarcity of Com. Nighthawks in lowland areas in the Region continue (HN, BHT), but the species is still locally common. After the early June passage of migrant flocks of Black Swifts, groups of 1-2 dozen were seen through late June and July at Leadbetter Pt. (RW), Seattle (ER), Oak Bay (RS), and Metchosin (M&VG). Many were near breeding areas near Newhalem (DP) and on the upper Cowlitz R., Wash. (RR), and six were calling over Campbell R., V.I., July 1 (HT). A Rufous Hummingbird feeding two young in Victoria July 1 (EC, *vide* VG) was later than usual. There were 2 more records of Costa's Hummingbird in Oregon this summer. A male was photographed at a feeder in Ashland June 8-14 (†HN, MMo) and another male appeared briefly July 31+ at the same feeder in Molalla where one had been seen last year (PL, *vide* HN).

JG notes that the population of Acorn Woodpeckers at the n. extent of their range in the Willamette Valley at McMinnville has been stable since at least 1968. Williamson's Sapsuckers were feeding young at nests in mid-June near Lightning L., Manning P.P. (WW, BM, DK), at White Pass, Wash., (BHT), and n.e. of Ashland, Ore. (MMo). The two n. sites are each somewhat w. of the usual habitat for this species, but have become regular outposts. Another potential study area for the forms of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was indicated by the location July 12 of a "Red-breasted" near Pemberton, 85 mi n. of Vancouver, B.C., and a "Red-naped" near Duffey L., about 20 mi to the e. (DK, GA). A pair of N. Three-toed Woodpeckers at Blue L., s. of Crater L., Ore., June 22, was very near the s. limit of the species' range in the Cascades (D&CM).

Many E. Kingbirds were w. of their usual breeding areas this season. Singles were at Leadbetter Pt., June 11, (RW), at River Jordan, V.I., June 14 (HV, PB, *vide* VG), at Dungeness in mid-June (AB, *vide* DS), and at Ocean Shores June 28 (G&WH). Up to eight were in Jericho Park, Vancouver, B.C., June 3-17 (m.ob., *vide* WW). There were reports of eleven vagrant W. Kingbirds, a normal number, throughout the Region. An Ashthroated Flycatcher appeared June 15 at Jericho Park (†D&SW) for the eighth Vancouver record and the first outside of fall. A singing Least Flycatcher reappeared near Duncan, V.I., July 12-16 at the same site as the one last year (JC). Territorial Hammond's Flycatchers were noted in deciduous riparian forests in w. Washington this summer (ME, EH, DP). This species is usually found in primarily coniferous woodlands. Skylark habitat and numbers continue to decline in parts of s. V.I. (JC). Purple Martins had a good season in w. Washington. JD reported that 21 pairs successfully bred in nest boxes in the s. Puget

Sound area. DF censused ten pairs nesting in buildings in downtown Tacoma and Seattle, and eight pairs at the colony on L. Sammamish, Wash. Further s., TL counted about 50 pairs at Fern Ridge Res., and found the species "fairly common" between Bandon and Port Orford, Ore. The Oregon birds were all nesting in snags.

MIMIDS THROUGH ICTERIDS—Single Mockingbirds at Tatoosh I., June 13-15 (BP, M&SDe), in Kent June 24 (DP), on Leadbetter Pt., July 9 (RW), and at LaPush July 11-13 (GB), furnished the first-ever summer records for w. Washington. The pair at Port Orford, Ore., was still present through the summer (*vide* HN). Mockingbirds have bred only once in the Region, at Victoria in 1967. Two Veeries were heard July 3 at the Alexandra Bridge over the Fraser R., about 25 mi n. of Hope, B.C. (WW), near the edge of the species' breeding range. Another w. Washington Veery was found July 5 n. of Skykomish (SH). The encouraging number of W. Bluebird reports this spring was not followed up. Only 2 reports were received for the summer. A pair of Mountain Bluebirds was feeding young July 19 at Sunrise, Mt. Rainier N.P., a traditional nesting area (TB). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet June 15 in Cypress P.P., W. Vancouver, B.C. (WW), was near the s. limit of the species' range. An ad. Water Pipit feeding young July 27 at 6000 ft near McKenzie Pass in Oregon's c. Cascades may have produced the southernmost breeding record for Oregon (DA, *vide* HN). Details of a White Wagtail sighting June 4 at Harris Beach S.P., on the s. Oregon coast (†RT) have been submitted to the Oregon Records Committee. Bohemian Waxwings feeding young July 24 just n. of Hart's Pass in the N. Cascades of Washington (ME) provided the second nesting record for the state.

An Ovenbird was found dead beneath a window in W. Seattle June 26 (SS, specimen to U.W. Museum) for the first record for w. Wash., and only the second for the Region. TL located five singing ♂ N. Waterthrushes June 20-26 along Crescent Cr., and the Little Deschutes R., just e. of the Cascade crest in Klamath Co., Oregon. This represents a highly isolated s.w. outlier of this species' known summer range. A Yellow-breasted Chat was seen July 12 near Vancouver, Wash. (DJ). At least three Am. Redstarts were present and singing near Sultan, Wash., June 11-30 (SA, ME). The birds were territorial, but nesting evidence was not obtained (ME). There is only one breeding record for the Region (*Am. Birds* 24:711). Three Bobolinks, rare spring vagrants, were found during the first week of June: one each near Eugene, Ore., June 1 (LM, *vide* HN & CW), in Seattle June 2-3 (†ER), at the mouth of the Sixes R., Curry Co., Ore., June 6 (TL, DR). Another was in N. Vancouver, B.C., July 7 (†MDa). The seven Yellow-headed Blackbirds seen June 11 on Sea I., near Vancouver, B.C., were apparently nesting (DK).

FINCHES AND SPARROWS—Evening Grosbeaks were suspected of nesting in the lowlands in several areas, but the only report of dependent young was in Esquimalt, V.I.

(E&AD, *vide* VG). Roadkills of several hundred Evening Grosbeaks were reported in the Manning P.P. area in early July (DK, MDa, GA). Thousands of grosbeaks were gathered there, apparently in response to a spruce budworm outbreak, and heavy traffic was picking them off the road shoulders (*vide* WW). A ♂ Indigo Bunting visited a feeder in Bandon, Ore., June 6 (GW, *vide* AM). A recently fledged Lazuli Bunting was mist-netted and released July 8 s.e. of McKenna, Wash., one of the few w. Washington breeding locales (JWn). A single ♂ Cassin's Finch was heard singing at Snoqualmie Pass, Wash., June 21 (EH, AR). The species is a common breeder e. of the Cascade crest in Washington but is rarely reported on the w. side. A few Red Crossbills were noted in July at Elk R., and Corvallis, Ore. (DR, EE), where they are unusual in summer. Elsewhere, Red Crossbills were widespread in small numbers in the Cascades and the lowlands of w. Washington and British Columbia. A single White-winged Crossbill was found July 29 in Manning P P (EH).

Three Lark Buntings were found this June. A male was at Riddle, Douglas Co., Ore., June 6 (RWO—ph., *vide* HN). A subad. male at Oak Bay, V.I., June 7-8 (VGu, BG—ph, †M&VG) produced the first V.I. record. And a male was seen June 21 & 23 at Fort Flagler S.P., near Port Townsend, for the third record for Washington (†WS, KK). One Vesper Sparrow was reported from the locale that formerly held the only population on s. V.I., now part of suburbia (JTa, *vide* VG). Six male Vesper Sparrows were found along the coast of n. Curry Co., Ore., in early June, and a family group was there in late July (DR, TL). No other existing coastal breeding populations of this species are known to us. A singing ♂ White-crowned Sparrow of the race *pugetensis* was found up the Fraser R. canyon of s. British Columbia, at Boston Bar, 40 mi n. of Hope, June 9 (WW). A pair of Golden-crowned Sparrows was seen in late May and early June at Rolley Lake P.P., 35 mi e. of Vancouver, B C (MHo, *vide* WW). Nesting was suspected but not proven.

CORRIGENDA—The Magnificent Frigatebird at the mouth of the Rogue R., Ore., July 24, 1979 (*Am. Birds* 33:890) has since been well documented. The several nests of Barn Swallows at Oceanside, Ore., still had large young Aug. 11, 1979, not Sept 11 (*Am. Birds* 34:194). The ♂ Bobolink near Salem June 3, 1978 (*Am. Birds* 32:1203), was actually seen there June 2 (EE, HN) for the sixth, not second, record for w. Oregon. Please delete the record of Lesser Goldfinches in Lincoln County, Ore., July 28, 1977 (*Am. Birds* 31:1182) at the request of the observers.

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not been observed for many years. Nesting of White-faced Ibis at Mendota W.A. was confirmed when an adult was seen feeding young June 4 (CP). This is the only known nesting in our Region in recent years. Nesting was also suspected at the S. Wilbur Flood Area, since at least seven birds summered there (JiR).

WATERFOWL—Two healthy-looking Whistling Swans were at Lower Klamath N.W.R., to June 14+ (m.ob.). A White-fronted Goose was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 13 (SL, KC) for the only summer sighting. At least two Snow Geese, apparently injured, summered at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (m.ob.).

Two Gadwall were at Muddy Hollow, Pt. Reyes National Seashore (hereafter, P R N.S.) June 25 (DS). They are casual on the outer coast in summer. Blue-winged Teal were reported in much higher than usual numbers from both coastal and inland locations throughout June. At Lower Klamath N.W.R., over 100 were seen June 14 and they were found to be more numerous than Cinnamon Teal that day (RE). Twenty-four were sighted in Marin County (DS), four in Sonoma County, two in Monterey County, 11 in the C. V., two pair at Manzanita L., Lassen Volcano N.P., June 16 (DM) and over 50 additional birds from the Great Basin (m.ob.). A ♀ Am. Wigeon "summered" at Abbott's Lagoon, P.R.N.S., providing one of our few summer records from the outer coast (DS). Wood Ducks were found at 2 Great Basin locations: White Horse Flat Res., Modoc Co., June 5 (BD) and a female with three young at Sierra Marsh, Sierra Co., June 14 (B&CY). There are few Great Basin nesting records. A female with six young at Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo Co., June 7 (PM) was also unusual.

Ring-necked Ducks were much more numerous than previously reported. Thirty-six pairs were found on the Calif. F. & G. Breeding Ground Survey from Sierra Valley to Surprise Valley, Modoc Co. (BD). At least seven pairs summered at the Lava Lakes Nature Center and 14 were at Barnum Flat Res., Siskiyou Co., June 15 (RE). Two females with broods were at Willow L., Plumas Co., July 9-27 (DA). Quite surprising was a pair at Capay Valley, Yolo Co. (TB), throughout the nesting season, three males at Auburn June 9 (BBa) and a female at Muddy Hollow July 16 (DS).

Over 30 pairs of Bufflehead were reported from mountain lakes in Siskiyou, Modoc and Lassen counties (m.ob.). This is a far greater number than normally reported but is probably a result of better coverage. At least nine individuals were seen along the coast (DS, DEI, DE),—more than usual. A flock of 84 Bufflehead at Tule Lake N.W.R., June 14 (RE) represented an amazing concentration for summer. A ♀ Oldsquaw at Tule Lake N.W.R., June 16-28 (SS) established our first inland summer record. A ♀ Ruddy Duck with seven young at Novato June 26 (DS) established the first nesting record for Marin County. A ♀ Red-breasted Merganser at Tule Lake N.W.R., June 8 (MR, RE) provided the fourth inland summer record.

RAPTORS—A flock of 28 White-tailed

Kites feeding on a local rodent outbreak w. of Clifton Court Forebay in the Delta Aug. 1 (DE) was of interest. Ten nesting pairs of Goshawks were reported from w. Siskiyou County to L. Tahoe (m.ob.) reflecting better coverage and reporting from mountain areas.

Two ad. Bald Eagles were at Portola Valley, San Mateo Co., June 10 (TC, *fide* WB). This sighting was very unusual as it occurred 90 mi from the nearest-known nesting site. The birds were either looking for a nest site or wandering from an unsuccessful nest. Marsh Hawks also responded to the rodent outbreak at Clifton Court Forebay with 20 there Aug. 1 (DE). An extensive survey of Osprey on L. Almanor revealed 25 active nests which produced 36-40 young (DA). This number was double the previous nesting pair estimate for the area.

Quite unusual were two **Merlin** sightings, one in w. Siskiyou County July 8 (Steve Hodge) and one at Chester July 9 (Don Eastes, *fide* DA). Both were seen by observers familiar with the species and lead to speculation about nesting within the state. *Birds of Northern California* (McCaskie *et al.*, 1979) lists no records for July.

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS—Ruffed Grouse were reported to be more numerous than usual in the vicinity of Happy Camp, Siskiyou Co., with birds seen crossing roads frequently and feeding with poultry in yards even in the middle of town (Bob Seaman). An increase in California Quail numbers and an excellent breeding season were reported from several locations (MEM, LF, BD). Mountain Quail also had an excellent breeding season with dozens of broods reported from both the Sierras and Siskiyou (JW, TB, SL).

Sandhill Cranes nested at Grass L., Siskiyou Co., (B&CY) for the farthest w. location in the state. Soras were found throughout the period at a small freshwater marsh adjacent to Humboldt Bay (SJ). They are rarely reported from coastal marshes in summer. An amazing total of 44 territorial Black Rails was censused at Port Chicago Marsh, Contra Costa Co., July 8-16 (DEI), an area where they were not known to occur. In addition, at least four were heard at Olema Marsh July 30 (DS).

SHOREBIRDS—Five pairs of Black-necked Stilts were nesting at MacArthur Swamp, Shasta Co., June 8 (SL, KC), a county where they had not been recorded previously, even as migrants. Snowy Plover at Pajaro Dunes suffered a poor nesting season when only four young were fledged from 22 nests (J&RW). Most unusual was a summering Am. Golden Plover at Pescadero Marsh May 31-July 13 (AE, DRo), and another at Alameda S. Shore July 6 (*fide* SB). There were only two previous June records and none for July. Black-bellied Plovers were found at Lower Klamath N.W.R., throughout the period with seven June 8 & 14, and 13 on July 13 (SS, MR, RE). A Marbled Godwit at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 8 (MR, RE) appears to represent our only inland record for the first 3 weeks in June. Three Lesser Yellowlegs at Alameda S. Shore June 11 (*fide* ER) and two at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 13 (SS, SL, KC) represent two of very

few June records for the Region. A Willet at Creighton, Kings Co., June 20 (JiR) provided the second June record for the C.V.

A Wandering Tattler at Gualala R., Sonoma Co., June 7 (BP, DE) produced one of very few June records. Early fall arrivals were one at Bolinas July 12 (DS) and one at Eureka July 13 (SJ). More N. Phalaropes were reported than usual, with one at Pescadero Marsh June 7 (DM), three at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 8 (SS), one at Sierra Marsh, Sierra Co., June 15 (B&CY) and one at Mono L., June 21 (P.R.B.O.) Red Phalaropes made an excellent showing with up to five at Pt. Reyes June 8-17 (DS), one at Pescadero Marsh June 7 (DM) and up to 1000 off Pt. Pinos July 26-27 (DRo, PM, GMCC). Territorial snipe were found at Whitmore, Shasta Co., Jelly's Ferry Rd., Tehama Co., and Brown's Valley, Yuba Co., in June during a Calif. F.&G. study of the breeding range of the species (*fide* BD).

The first regional interior records for Short-billed Dowitcher for June listed up to seven seen at Lower Klamath N.W.R., June 6-13 (SS *et al.*) and one at Honey Lake W.A., June 15 (SAL, KC). Twelve Sanderlings were at Mono L., July 7 (P.R.B.O.). The fourth regional inland record for Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Warm Springs, Mono Co., July 18 (P.R.B.O., CSw, GP, LS). One Baird's Sandpiper at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (KV) and two at Mono L. (P.R.B.O.) both July 8 were a week earlier than the normal early date. A few Dunlin normally summer along the coast, but one at the S. Wilbur Flood Area July 3 (JiR) established the first C.V. summer record. Most unusual was an ad. ♂ Ruff, still in breeding plumage, July 15-31 (Jeanne Spittler, Ken Irwin, *fide* RLeV), which provided our first record between March and September.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS—An ad Parasitic Jaeger was at Mono L., June 13 (P.R.B.O., CSw) for our only inland summer record. A first-year W. Gull was at Rio Vista, Sacramento Co., Aug. 2 (DE) for one of very few records for the C.V. California Gulls are in trouble at Mono L., but new colonies were found with 2000 pairs at Lower Klamath N.W.R., (SL, KC) and 1000+ at Honey Lake W.A. (SL, DA). An ad. Franklin's Gull was at Pigeon Pt., San Mateo Co., June 3 (PM) After 2 summers with very few Bonaparte's Gulls, hundreds were seen at coastal, valley and basin locations (m.ob.). A most amazing record was produced by a pair of **Heermann's Gulls** nesting on Alcatraz I., June 17 (LCB) The attempt was unsuccessful. This represents the first nesting n. of Mexico. The only Black-legged Kittiwake was at Bodega Head July 19 (DEI). Sabine's Gulls, rarely reported in summer, were off Monterey July 26 & 27 with up to 11 seen (DRo, PM, GMCC).

An ad. Arctic Tern was found at the Stockton Sewage Ponds June 12 (†ED) furnishing our second inland record. Large numbers of post-breeding Elegant Terns arrived 1-2 weeks earlier than normal, with 20 at Bay Bridge Toll Plaza July 5 (AE) and 400 at Pajaro Dunes July 15 (J&RW). Unusually high numbers of Black Terns were reported from Tule Lake N.W.R. with 700 on July 13 (SAL *et al.*) and 5500 July 26 (MR, RE).

Up to seven Xantus' Murrelets were seen

on pelagic trips 15-20 mi off Monterey Bay July 26 & 27 (DRo,PM,GMcC). Single Ancient Murrelets, rarely seen in summer, were reported from Año Nuevo, San Mateo Co., July 18 (Bob Spahn) and Fish Rock, Mendocino Co., July 13 (*vide* GS). At least three pairs of Tufted Puffins summered, and probably nested, at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse (JE,DS,JRi).

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS—Hundreds of Band-tailed Pigeons were observed in Redding in June (PD,*vide* SAL). They are normally absent from the C.V. at that time. Ten Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported from 4 C.V. locations July 27-Aug. 13 (m.ob.), but more unusual was a coastal sighting at the Watsonville Sewage Plant, Santa Cruz Co., July 21 (SG). Two Road-runners June 27 at the S. Wilbur Flood Area, Kings Co., along with other recent sightings there and at the Hacienda Spillway (JRi) indicate that this species can still be found in isolated spots on the San Joaquin Valley floor. The presence in July of 14 Screech Owls at several sites in w. Siskiyou Co. (SL) suggests they had previously been overlooked in that area. Eleven Flammulated Owls were reported, all from the species' expected range (m.ob.). Seven Great Gray Owls were reported from the Yosemite area (m.ob.). Because of its small population and restricted range in the state, this species was officially placed on the *California Endangered Species List* as of June 27 (*vide* JW). Intensive searching produced 50+ sightings of Spotted Owl in the w. Klamath N.F., Siskiyou Co., and raised the total known territories to 107 in that area (SL). A Spotted Owl was at Soup Springs in the S. Warner Mtns., Modoc Co., June 29 & July 9 (Sharon Whisler, *vide* SL). This is well e. of the species' known range. Three Long-eared Owls caught in nets at Akerson Meadow, Tuolumne Co. (JW), and one at Willow L., Plumas Co., July 19 (DAA) were notable, as they are quite rare on the w. slope of the Sierra. One to two at F.I., July 20-31 were at a site where they are more often detected. More notable at F.I. were single Short-eared Owls June 4 & July 16-17. A single Short-eared was also seen June 29 at Palo Alto Baylands (DES) and 1-8 were near Byron, Contra Costa Co., July 31-Aug. 13 (JF,DE). Nesting season records of this species have been few in recent years. A juv. Saw-whet Owl found dead July 14 on Kelso Rd., Alameda Co. (JF), on the w. edge of the C.V., represents the first summer record for the valley floor. A Saw-whet, rare in the Sierra, was seen June 26 at Akerson Meadow, Tuolumne Co. (JW).

Twenty-six Poor-wills were found in 3 areas in w. Siskiyou Co., in June and July (SL,KC). They are thought to be locally common in clear cuts and burns (SL,KC) though they have been rarely reported from this area previously. An estimated 200+ in mid-June in Lundy Canyon, Mono Co., (MM) indicates just how common they are on the e. side of the Sierra. The status of Com. Nighthawks has apparently changed in the Yosemite Sierra in recent years, as they now occur in lower numbers on the e. side than they did in the '60s and though formerly rare w. of the crest prior to 1977, they are now regular in



Lesser Nighthawk, Drake's Beach, Pt. Reyes N.S., Calif., June 20, 1980. Found by Jules Evens, Dave Shuford. Photo/Dick Johnson.

small numbers (MM). A Lesser Nighthawk coursed over Drake's Beach, P.R.N.S., June 20 (JE, DS, SFB, †Dick Johnson, †Nancy Conzett) for one of few coastal records away from F.I. where they are a nearly annual "spring" visitant. This year was no exception, as two were there June 30 and another July 14.

SWIFTS THROUGH SWALLOWS—Two Black Swifts at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse July 2 (JP) were undoubtedly late migrants. Several Vaux's Swifts were seen June 4 near Johnstonville, Lassen Co. (BD) and two were near Day, Modoc Co., June 8 (SL,KC). This species is rare in n.e. California. An out-of-range Costa's Hummingbird returned to a feeder in Healdsburg, Sonoma Co., June 30 (*vide* DE1) after an absence of two-and-a-half months. A ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird frequented a feeder in Palo Alto July 13-Aug. 8 (†Ed Schaefer) for the second regional coastal record (see Addendum). A single Rufous Hummingbird June 28 at Lassen V.N.P. (KC) followed by 38 moving S the next day (SL,KC) marked the advent of fall migration in the interior mountains. Thirty-five *Selasphorus* hummingbirds July 4 at Somes Bar, Siskiyou Co., were thought to be largely Allen's (SL). Displaying males of that species were reported in that area e. to Forks of Salmon and n.e. to Horsecreek from Apr. to June (MR, *vide* SL). This area is e. of the species' known breeding range. An Anna's Hummingbird June 8 at Day, Modoc Co. (SL,KC) was e. of its normal range of occurrence, and one at Crystal Cliffs, Lassen V.N.P., Lassen Co., at 7500 ft (SL,KC) was surely an up-mountain drifter.

A pair of "Red-breasted" Sapsuckers nesting at Bear Valley, P.R.N.S. (DS,JE, Marisela De Santa Anna), indicated a notable breeding range extension s. along the coast, but unfortunately the young were killed by Acorn Woodpeckers June 22 (DS) shortly before fledging. A pair of Downy Woodpeckers was found bringing food to a nest hole June 17 at Manzanita L., Lassen V.N.P. at the high elevation of 5800 ft (DM,DA). A

Nuttall's Woodpecker at Bear Valley, P.R.N.S., July 18&30 (DS) seemed early at a locale on the immediate coast. Seventeen Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen within their normal range (m.ob.). An E. Kingbird June 22 at Edgewood, Siskiyou Co., (B&CY) and one nearby at L. Shastina July 8 (SL,KC) were in the vicinity in which a pair nested during the last 3 summers. At P.R.N.S. one was at Abandoned Ranch June 30 (DS) and perhaps the same individual was at Mendoza Ranch July 2 (JP). A W. Kingbird was at the lofty elevation of 8000 ft at Olmstead Pt., Yosemite N.P., July 26 (JRi). Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, casual stragglers to the Region, were sighted at Bodega Head July 27 (†Gloria Markowitz, m.ob.) and at Patrick's Point S.P., Humboldt Co., July 19-24 (†GS,m.ob.). A singing Willow Flycatcher near Wildcat Camp, P.R.N.S., July 5 (DS, Irene Timossi) was a very late migrant. A W. Flycatcher was calling in Lee Vining Canyon, Mono Co., June 24-28 (MM); breeding status e. of the Sierra crest is still uncertain. A Bank Swallow occurred July 2 at DeChambeau Ponds, Mono Co. (CSw) for one of few Mono Basin records.

CORVIDS THROUGH WAXWINGS—Four-hundred-fifty Com. Ravens at a communal roost at Home Bay, P.R.N.S., June 24 (DS) was an unusual concentration. Adult Black-capped Chickadees were found feeding young June 20 at Espa Lagoon, in the extreme s.w. corner of Prairie Creek Redwoods S.P., Humboldt Co., (GS), representing the farthest s. immediate coastal breeding record for California. A Mountain Chickadee June 19-20 on outer Pt. Reyes (JM *et al.*) provided a rare coastal sighting. Chesnut-backed Chickadees seen in Sierra, Nevada, and Placer counties July 5-7 (DE) added to the growing list of recent Sierran sightings. Whether this species is truly increasing in numbers and expanding its range in this Region or whether observer coverage has been more thorough recently is unclear. Single Red-breasted Nuthatches June 18 in riparian habitat at Grand I., Sacramento

Co., (DE1) and on outer Pt. Reyes July 15 (DS) were unseasonable. One-to-two apparently territorial Winter Wrens July 9 (JL) & 26 (JRI) at Crane Flat, Yosemite N.P. at 6200 ft were above the known nesting elevation in that area. A Cañon Wren at 10,450 ft on Mt. Lassen July 11 (DA) was well above the species' usual haunts. A Varied Thrush June 1 at Nunes Ranch, P.R.N.S. (DMcC,SB) was a very late migrant. A singing male July 5 at Yellow Jacket Ridge n.e. of Forks of Salmon, Siskiyou Co. (SL) was notable, as nesting is suspected though not confirmed in this county. A ♂ Mountain Bluebird June 20 at the Fish Docks, Pt. Reyes (JE,DS *et al.*) was a rare and unseasonal coastal migrant. The first confirmed breeding of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher for the Mono Basin took place this summer near Lee Vining, Mono Co. (David Gaines, *vide* MM). An ad. ♀ **White Wagtail** observed July 20-31+ at the Watsonville Sewage Plant, Santa Cruz Co. (Carolyn Friedrickson, *vide* SB, m.ob.), is undoubtedly the same bird seen there this past year. The bird was still in breeding plumage and was identified racially as *M. a. lugens* (JM). Thus two of the five California records that have been identified racially have proved to be *lugens*; however two Mexican records have proved to be *M. a. ocellaris* (*vide* JM). Displaying Water Pipits were found July 22-23 on both sides of Italy Pass, elev. 12,400 ft, Fresno/Inyo counties (HG). First recorded breeding in California in 1975 (AB 29:1028), the Water Pipit's breeding range still needs clarification. Two Cedar Waxwings were seen July 13 at Tule Lake N.W.R. (SL,KC); they are casual in the Region away from the n. coast in July.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS—A **Bell's Vireo**, thought to be the e. subspecies *V. b. belli*, was seen June 1 at Hovie Pt. Oasis, Tule Lake N.W.R. (†SL,KC). Although formerly a common breeder in the C.V. (*V. b. pusillus*) this bird represents only the fifth regional record of any race in the last 20 years. This species, too, has now been placed on the *California Endangered Species List*. A Red-eyed Vireo was at F.I., June 29-30; spring records are somewhat more plentiful there than fall records. Coastally four Black-and-white Warblers were seen June 1-July 1 (m.ob.) and inland one was at Hovie Pt. Oasis June 1 (SL,KC). Coastally 11 (eight at F.I.) Tennessee Warblers were sighted June 1-July 16 (m.ob.) and inland in Mono County singles were seen June 3 at DeChambeau Creek (LS) and June 28-29 at Lee Vining Canyon (MM). Also at Lee Vining Canyon up to ten Orange-crowned Warblers were seen June 24-28, along with a singing ♂ Nashville Warbler June 26-27 (MM); the breeding status of both these species e. of the Sierran crest is still uncertain. Ten Magnolia Warblers were found along the coast June 1-July 1 (m.ob.); this is somewhat more than average for "spring." A Cape May Warbler was at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse June 1 (DMcC), two were at Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes June 14 (JM), and singles were at F.I., June 1 & 19. A "Myrtle" Warbler June 29 at F.I. presumably was a vagrant from a population not usually found in California. An

"Audubon's" Warbler July 13 at Tule Lake N.W.R. (SL) along with juvenile-plumaged birds July 22 in Golden Gate Park (LB) and Aug. 2 in Bolinas (GP) were undoubtedly post-breeding wanderers from nearby breeding populations. A Townsend's Warbler July 17 on the N. Fork of the American R. drainage (TB) was presumably a very early fall migrant and represents one of very few July regional records.

A ♀ Black-throated Green Warbler, a casual spring vagrant to the Region, was at F.I., June 18, but much more unusual was a singing ♂ **Black-throated Green Warbler** seen July 5 at Cape Mendocino, Humboldt Co. (RLeV, LD, Ken Irwin; and "earlier" and "later" Bill Clow). Though previously unreported, presumably the same individual summered at the same spot in 1979 and again this year (Bill Clow). This provided the first regional summering record. Six Chestnut-sided Warblers were sighted coastally June 9-July 2 (m.ob.) and singles were found inland in Mono Co., June 13 at DeChambeau Creek (GP,CSw) and June 17 at Lundy Canyon (MM). This was an above-average showing compared with recent years. Three ♀ Bay-breasted Warblers graced F.I., June 13-July 1 and single singing males were found June 20 at Drake's Beach, P.R.N.S. (SB *et al.*) and June 30-July 4 at Arcata (PS, RLeV). A Blackpoll Warbler, much rarer in spring than in fall, was at F.I., July 1. "The Island" also hosted five Palm Warblers June 18-July 3 (in addition to three May arrivals). The total of eight compares with one or two in recent "springs." This is not surprising in light of last fall's record flight, but is somewhat anomalous in that none was found on the mainland, despite good coverage. Two Ovenbirds June 3 & 18-20 joined the warbler throngs at F.I. A ♀ **Mourning Warbler** at F.I. (†P.R.B.O.), June 30 (banded)—July 1 provided the second regional spring record. A singing ♂ Com. Yellowthroat July 24 at 10,200 ft at Honeymoon L., Inyo Co., (HG) was at a lofty elevation. A ♀ Hooded Warbler at F.I., July 1-2 was followed by a male at Tilden Regional Park, Contra Costa Co., July 4-26 (Lou Cooper, *vide* SB, m.ob.) and a female at Golden Gate Park July 15-30 (LB, m.ob.). A Wilson's Warbler July 22 at Gray Lodge W.A. (BD) was an early fall migrant. Coastally seven Am. Redstarts were sighted June 11-July 10 (m.ob.). In addition an **Am. Redstart** pair was found at the Fairhaven Willows, Humboldt Co., June 31, a nest with four young was located July 29, and the adults were seen feeding 1-2 fledglings July 31-Aug. 9 (Ken Irwin, *vide* RLeV). This represents the second confirmed nesting attempt for California and the first successful one, as the first nest, also in Humboldt County, produced only one Brown-headed Cowbird youngster (see AB 26:898).

ICTERIDS THROUGH SPARROWS—A ♀ Bobolink was at F.I., June 20. Tricolored Blackbird, a rare breeder on the immediate coast in the Region, was found nesting at Drake's Beach, P.R.N.S., with the first appearance June 8 of the 100± birds comprising the colony (JM), and by July 31 adults were feeding numerous fledglings (DS). A colony of 1000 pairs of Tricoloreds June 8

near MacArthur Swamp and Big L., n.e. Shasta Co. (SL,KC), was notable, as the species is believed to be a sporadic breeder on the Modoc Plateau. A ♀ **Orchard Oriole** July 9 at F.I. furnished the third regional "spring" record (a July 12, 1969 record of a hatching year bird at Palomar was a "fall" dispersant/migrant). The **Great-tailed Grackle** pair in S.F. attempted breeding, as a nest was found at the foot of Van Ness Ave., June 20 (JM); however, the attempt failed. This marks the first regional nesting record.

Brown-headed Cowbirds continued to be noted throughout the L. Almanor area of the n. Sierra, with a high count of 125 at a feeder in Chester, Plumas Co., June 25 (DA). In contrast, in the Cascades of w. Siskiyou County cowbirds were virtually absent, presumably owing to the lack of meadows and cattle grazing in this area of steep terrain (SL). Male **Scarlet Tanagers** June 18-22 at F.I., and at Arcata June 29-30 (†PS) provided the sixth and seventh regional records. Coastally, five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks June 18-July 22 (m.ob.) were somewhat fewer than average for recent years. An active Black-headed Grosbeak nest June 24-28 in Lee Vining Canyon, Mono Co. (MM), though long suspected, provided the first confirmation of breeding on the e. slope of the Sierra. Coastally, seven Indigo Buntings were found June 1-July 29 (m.ob.). A ♂ Indigo X Lazuli Bunting was found mated to a ♀ Lazuli at Edgewood, Siskiyou Co., June 27 (†SL,KC). An Evening Grosbeak June 8 near the mouth of the Gualala R., Sonoma Co. (DE1), was late for the coastal lowlands s. of Humboldt County. Cassin's Finches were found to be common throughout the period and suspected of breeding at 4600 ft at Akerson Meadow (JW). Though this species breeds at lower elevations farther n. in the Cascades, there are no records of nesting below 7000 ft in the Yosemite area. Also at Akerson Meadow young Lawrence's Goldfinches were found June 24 along with 10-15 adults throughout the period (JW). This is a high elevation for breeding for this species in the c. Sierra. Red Crossbills were reported in above average numbers from the w. slope of the Sierra (m.ob.).

Green-tailed Towhees were singing regularly at 9500 ft above Warren Forks, Yosemite area June 14-15 (also June/July 1977-79) and probably breed at that elevation (MM). A ♂ Lark Bunting was near the Nunes Ranch, Pt. Reyes June 5-6 (DS *et al.*) and a female was near there June 15 (JH); there are only 3 previous records for the immediate coast in spring. A Vesper Sparrow July 21-23 at F.I. furnished only the third coastal July sighting. Single "Oregon" Juncos June 9 in Fresno (Mark Meyers) and throughout the period near Auburn (*vide* MA) were out of place seasonally, being far from breeding habitat. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were at F.I., June 1-3 where they continue to hold a monopoly on spring records. A "Gambell's" White-crowned Sparrow near Auburn June 5-17 (MA) was a very tardy straggler. A Golden-crowned Sparrow June 10 at the jct of Highways 203 & 395, Mono Co. (Carol Annable), and one lingering until July 1 in Kensington, Contra Costa Co. (Nancy Conzett), were also unseasonal stragglers. Fox Sparrows June 14-15 (also June/July

1977-79) at 9500 ft above Warren Forks, Yosemite area were thought to be breeding at that elevation (MM). Lincoln Sparrows formerly bred as low as 4000 ft in Yosemite but in recent years have not bred below 6000 ft (D. Gaines, 1977, *Birds of the Yosemite Sierra*), so sightings of territorial birds this summer at 4 locales in Yosemite from 4-5000 ft (MM, WB) were encouraging.

ADDENDUM—An ad. ♂ **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** was seen in Santa Cruz June 27, 1979 (†Edna Vollmer) for the first regional coastal record. A **LeConte's Thrasher** was observed Apr. 29, 1980 near Avenal, Kings Co. (JiR), for the first regional sighting in 20+ years. Three active Mockingbird nests were found in the Crescent City

area in the summer of 1979 (GS) for a significant breeding range expansion n. along the coast.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ Guy McCaskie

The summer season was dry, but the heavy rains of last winter left the area with much water, with streams running and ample vegetation in the hills and mountains.

Environmental studies were conducted along the coast that produced many interesting data on the status of some waterbird species, but little work was done in the mountains, and the desert was all but ignored.

LOONS, GREBES—All 3 of the regularly occurring species of loons were present along the coast throughout the summer, with 42 Com. Loons, 307 Arctic Loons and 20 Red-throated Loons reported. In addition, eight Com. Loons on L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co., during June and July (LB), one on a small lake in Anaheim throughout the period (SR), one on Baldwin L., in the San Bernardino Mts., June 21 (KGa) and another on nearby L. Silverwood July 31 (SG) were all summering on inland lakes/reservoirs. Two Arctic Loons on L. Cachuma June 6-July 23 (LRB) are the first to have summered inland in this Region. Three pairs of Eared Grebes were attending nests near Barstow, San Bernardino Co., May 17 (PR); this species was previously unrecorded as breeding in this area. Both color phases of W. Grebes (Ratti, *Auk* 96:573-586, 1979) nested at the n. end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, N.E.S.S.) with the 2 phases paired as if separate species (GMcC).

FULMARS, SHEARWATERS—A N. Fulmar was captured on the beach at Pt. Sal, Santa Barbara Co., July 23 (LB); this species is rare in s. California waters in summer. A New Zealand Shearwater at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., June 21 (RW) was one of a very few ever found in California waters in June. As usual, Sooty Shearwaters were the common shearwaters offshore, with large numbers visible from shore n. of Los Angeles in July.

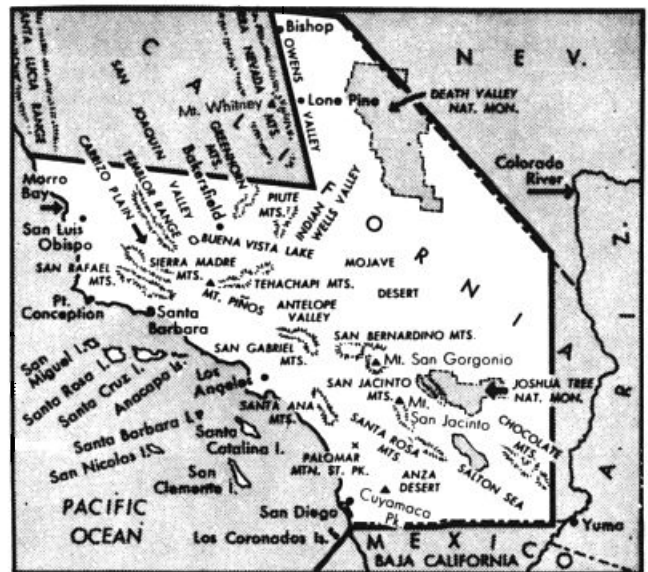
PELICANS, FRIGATEBIRDS—Brown Pelicans were first seen on the Salton Sea June 21 (DP), but remained scarce, with no

more than eight present at the end of the period. Small numbers of Magnificent Frigatebirds appeared along the coast in July, with 22 reports involving 30 birds being received, and one over Chula Vista, San Diego Co., June 30 (BT) being the earliest. A Magnificent Frigatebird was at N.E.S.S. July 4 (AE) and four were together there July 19 (DP), with one or two remaining around the Salton Sea through the end of the period (GMcC), but one near Cuyama, Santa Barbara Co., July 22 (JH) and another over Big Bear L., in the San Bernardino Mts., July 16 (GB) were both at unusual localities.

HERONS, SPOONBILLS—An ad. Little Blue Heron was at N.E.S.S., July 30 (KC), and another was at the Santa Ynez R. estuary, Santa Barbara Co., July 23 (RW), but of most interest was a pair near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., that successfully raised two young in a small colony of nesting egrets along the Tijuana R. (EC); this is only the second time this species has been found breeding in California. Some 20+ pairs of Cattle Egrets nesting near Imperial Beach (GMcC) were the only ones found breeding away from the vicinity of the Salton Sea. At least 3 pairs of Snowy Egrets nested near Imperial Beach (GMcC); a much larger colony in Carlsbad last summer established the first occurrence of breeding along the coast of s. California. Unexpected was an ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Imperial Beach July 18-26 (GMcC., ph S.D.N.H.M.), this being the ninth record in s. California. A Least Bittern in Santa Barbara June 23 (LRB) was the only one found along the coast n. of Los Angeles, but small numbers were present along the coast of San Diego County. An ad.

Roseate Spoonbill at the s. end of the Salton Sea (hereafter S.E.S.S.) July 27+ (RHan) was the first to reach California since 1977, and the first adult ever seen in California.

WATERFOWL—Gadwall were found nesting inland in the Antelope Valley (near Lancaster—KGa) and in the mountains of San Diego County (L. Henshaw—RH), as well as at the Santa Ynez R. estuary (LB), Goleta (LB), the Santa Clara R. estuary (RW), Pt. Mugu (RW) and near Imperial Beach (EC) along the coast; numbers of breeding Gadwall appeared to be on the increase in s. California. At least 25 Blue-winged Teal were found along the coast of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties during June and July, with one pair definitely nesting at the Santa Clara R. estuary, Ventura Co. (RW); this is the first recorded occurrence of nesting along the coast of s. California. Wood Ducks were found nesting s. to L. Cachuma, where 2 broods were seen June 15 (LRB). A Ring-necked Duck, exceptionally scarce in summer, was at the Santa



Clara R. estuary throughout the period (RW), one remained near Beaumont, Riverside Co., during June and July (SG) and two more spent the summer on L. Hodges near San Diego (KW). A Canvasback remained at N E S.S. all summer (GMcC). A Bufflehead at Pt Mugu through June 15 (RW), two at N E S.S., most of June (GMcC), and another at S E.S.S., July 12 (GMcC), were all badly worn, and clearly attempting to summer locally. An Oldsquaw on San Diego Bay June 25 (EC) was undoubtedly summering locally. White-winged Scoters were exceptionally numerous along the coast, with counts such as 181 off Vandenberg A.F.B., July 29-30 (LB) and 54 at Pt. Mugu June 15 (RW), and one was inland at Salton City on the Salton Sea July 12 (DP). A Surf Scoter at Salton City July 19 (DP) was the only one found away from the coast. A Black Scoter, always rare in summer, was at the Santa Ynez R. estuary June 7-18 (PL). As usual a few Red-breasted Mergansers spent the summer inland on the Salton Sea, as well as along the coast with a high count of eight at N.E.S.S., July 12 (DP).

HAWKS—The only nesting Swainson's Hawks reported were a pair near Big Pine in the Owen's Valley (RW), another pair in the Lanfair Valley of e. San Bernardino County (AE), and a third pair in the Antelope Valley e. of Lancaster (JD); it is with regret that we monitor the decline of this fine species in California. A pair of Zone-tailed Hawks was again present on Santa Rosa Mt., Riverside Co., during June and July (WW); two young were hatched in a nest, but for some reason died before fledging. Seven Marsh Hawk nests were found at Harper Dry L., San Bernardino Co., during April and May (PR); this is a cultivated area far out in the Mojave Desert where breeding had previously been unrecorded.

SHOREBIRDS—A Black Oystercatcher at Pt Mugu July 2+ (RW) was away from known breeding localities. Single Am. Golden Plovers at the Santa Ynez R. estuary July 23 (RW), Goleta July 14-24 (LB), the Santa Clara R. estuary July 16 (GG) and near Imperial Beach July 26 (GMcC) were all fall migrants. A Whimbrel near Lancaster July 25 (JD) was one of very few ever found inland away from the Salton Sea in fall. Eight Wandering Tattlers around Pt. Sal July 15 (RW) were the first fall migrants noted this year. A Ruddy Turnstone at N.E.S.S., July 30 (KC) was inland. Seventeen Short-billed Dowitchers near Lancaster July 9 (JD) were fall migrants, the first being noted on the coast about a week earlier. Migrant Surf-birds appeared in n. Santa Barbara County in mid-July (four on July 17 and 11 on July 23) (RW). Seven Red Knots at S.E.S.S., July 12 (DP) were the only ones found away from the coast. An imm. Semipalmated Sandpiper at the Santa Ynez R. estuary July 29-30 (RW) was the first identified this fall. A Baird's Sandpiper at the Santa Maria R. estuary, Santa Barbara Co., June 18 (LB) and another there July 10 (LB) were both identified as adults, three at the Santa Ynez R. estuary July 29-30 (REW) being the first immatures of the fall. Exceptional was a Pectoral Sandpiper near Betteravia, Santa Barbara Co., July 21 (RW) and another at the Santa Clara R. estuary June 29 (REW) since few are record-

ed during the summer period in s. California. A Dunlin at the Santa Clara R. estuary July 13+ (LRB) was unexpected since few occur in California between May and September. An ad. Stilt Sandpiper at the Santa Maria R. estuary June 29-30 (LB) and another in Goleta July 6-16 (LRB) were along the coast where scarce, and were exceptionally early for fall migrants.

GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS—As usual a few Glaucous-winged Gulls summered along the coast, with eight reported in Santa Barbara County (LB), five in Ventura County (RW) and one on San Diego Bay (GMcC). Much more unusual was an imm. Herring Gull at the Santa Maria R. estuary July 31 (RW), another near Imperial Beach June 22 (GMcC) and a third at S.E.S.S. Aug. 9 (DP), since there are few specific records of this species in s. California during the summer. Up to five first-summer Franklin's Gulls were regularly seen at N.E.S.S. throughout the period (GMcC); non-breeding birds have been found on the Salton Sea most summers in recent years. Once again large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls summered in the Region, with groups such as 30 at the Santa Maria R. estuary (LB), 22 at the Santa Clara R. estuary (RW) and ten near Imperial Beach (GMcC), still present along the coast at the end of the period, along with 20 inland near Lancaster throughout the period (JD). Of extreme interest was the presence of two pairs of Heermann's Gulls attempting to nest on Shell Beach Rocks off Vandenberg A.F.B. in May and June (GL, AD); both pairs built nests, and one nest contained an egg May 27, but both nests had been abandoned by July, indicating that the attempt failed. There is no previous record of Heermann's Gull nesting in California. [But see p. 926—Ed.] A Least Tern at Mitchell's Camp s. of Palo Verde June 19-20 (RM) is one of but two or three ever recorded along the Colorado River. Black Skimmers were scarce on the Salton Sea, and probably did not nest; however, 30± pairs did nest on San Diego Bay, with many juveniles flying at the end of the period. A Black Skimmer at Pt. Mugu July 19 (RW), two at the Santa Clara R. estuary June 10-14 (REW) and another there July 19 (RW) were the only ones found along the coast n. of San Diego.

ALCIDS—Common Murres were present along the entire coastline in July, but numbers found along the Santa Barbara and Ventura county coastline were unprecedented, with counts such as 21,000 at Pt. Sal Aug. 1 (LB) and 1020 at Pt. Mugu July 19 (RW). Pigeon Guillemots were found nesting on the coast of Santa Barbara County, with 10-12 pairs at Pt. Sal (LB) and 300-350 pairs at Pt. Arguello (GL); an immature at Pt. Mugu July 19 (RW) had wandered some distance from the nearest known nesting locality. Unexpected was a pair of Marbled Murrelets at Pt. Sal July 15+ (AD), this species is not known to occur s. of Big Sur in Monterey Co. during the summer. Possibly related to the influx of last winter were two Ancient Murrelets near Cayucos June 23 (JMc), two more at Pt. Arguello July 18 (AD, JN) and another at Pt. Mugu Aug. 3 (RW). Intriguing is a report of 25± Rhinoceros Auklets at Pt. Arguello throughout the sum-

mer (GL) with birds seen entering burrows July 17-18 (AD), but not found to have laid eggs. Rhinoceros Auklets are not known to nest s. of the Farallon Is.

PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMING-BIRDS—A Band-tailed Pigeon at the Santa Ynez R. estuary July 4 (LRB) was away from any known nesting area. A White-winged Dove at New Cuyama, Santa Barbara Co., July 17 (RHay) was w. of the species' normal range. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Tecopa, Inyo Co., July 4 (JT) was the only one found w. of the Colorado R. valley. A Long-eared Owl at Barka Slough, Santa Barbara Co., July 16 (RW) was in an area from which few have been recorded. Unexpected were up to 12 Short-eared Owls at Harper Dry L. during April and May, with 3 active nests discovered (PR), for nesting records are few for s. California, and this establishes the first occurrence of nesting in the desert region of s.e. California. Whip-poor-wills were heard calling near Big Pine in the San Gabriel Mts June 15 (KGa); although there is strong evidence indicating this species breeds in the mountains of s. California, an actual nest and/or recently fledged young have yet to be observed. A Chimney Swift was at Goleta June 7 (EG), four were over Santa Barbara June 9 (LRB) and at least two were around Burbank June 3-July 15 (JD, KGa); this species is now found in s. California annually, occurring in late spring, with some non-breeders remaining through the summer. Territorial Costa's Hummingbirds were found throughout June and July as far n. as Pt. Sal (LB) which is significantly n. of the species' recorded breeding range along the coast. Active Allen's Hummingbird nests were found at Marina del Rey, Los Angeles Co., May 22 & 24 (JJ), and a third was found in Newport Beach, Orange Co., Apr. 19 (SR), both localities being outside the species' breeding range, but the subspecies involved was not determined in either case. The migratory form *sasin* nests s. to Pt. Mugu, and possibly Malibu (*Am. Birds* 33:897, 1979), whereas the resident race *sedentarius* occurs on the Channel Is., and the Palos Verdes Pen.; one form would appear as likely as the other. A territorial pair of Calliope Hummingbirds on Hot Springs Mt., San Diego Co., June 4-July 22 (PU, DWP) were a little s. of the species' recorded breeding range.

KINGFISHERS, WOODPECKERS—Two Belted Kingfisher nests were found in Santa Barbara County (RW, JGre), and 20± summering birds, some suspected to be on breeding territories, were present at various localities in the coastal lowlands, and along the w. slope of the mountains, s. to San Diego County; documented nesting records have been few indeed in recent years, and this species may be in trouble as a breeding bird of s. California. Three pairs of Yellow-bellied (Red-breasted) Sapsuckers nesting on Mt. Palomar (RH) were at the s. limit of the species' breeding range. An ad. Williamson's Sapsucker accompanied by two juveniles on Pine Mt., Ventura Co., July 30 (JGr) gives us the first evidence of nesting in this area of California.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—An E Kingbird at Tinemaha Res., in the Owens

Valley June 6 (CA), was in an area where nesting has previously been suspected. A nesting pair of W. Kingbirds in Goleta (LB) was unusual since the species normally avoids the immediate vicinity of the coast in summer. A Black Phoebe at the summit of Mt. Pinos (8000 ft) June 4 (GG) was at an unusually high elevation for the species. Two territorial ♂ Willow Flycatchers along the Santa Margarita R. near Fallbrook, San Diego Co., June 2-July 12 (SG) were the only ones known to remain through the summer; the s. California breeding population is virtually extirpated. A Dusky Flycatcher on Hot Springs Mt., June 3-4 (PU) and another on nearby Cuyamaca Peak June 17 (CE) were at the s. extreme of the species' breeding range. Tree Swallows have declined as a breeding bird in this Region, especially in the s. portion; hence, the successful nesting of five pairs near San Diego this summer (CE) was encouraging. A pair of Barn Swallows found nesting under a freeway bridge near Lancaster July 9 (JD) established the first breeding record in the Antelope Valley, and a pair feeding young at Leo Carrillo State Beach July 8 (KGa) documented nesting along the coast of Los Angeles County. Purple Martins still attract much attention, but less than 30 pairs could be located within the Region.

CHICKADEES THROUGH THRUSHES—Chestnut-backed Chickadees were found to be fairly common in willow thickets along the coast s. to the Santa Ynez R. valley, but absent s. of there (LB), indicating that the Santa Ynez R. marks the s. limit of this species' range today; 35 years ago (Grinnell and Miller, *Pacific Coast Avifauna* 27, 1944) Cambria marked the s. limit for this species. A Red-breasted Nuthatch on Hot Springs Mt., June 24 (DWP), was away from any known breeding locality. A pair of Winter Wrens was obviously on territory in Cambria, San Luis Obispo Co., May 21-July 31 (NCS), and seen carrying food (nest and young not seen); a nest seen here in 1978 (NCS) established the southernmost breeding locality on the coast of California, the species previously known to nest no farther s. than the Little Sur R. in Monterey County. A Cañon Wren at the Santa Ynez R. estuary July 31 (RW) had wandered some distance from the nearest known locality of regular occurrence. A singing Hermit Thrush on Hot Springs Mt., June 24 (PU), suggested a pair may be nesting at that locality; breeding is undocumented s. of the San Bernardino Mts. A Townsend's Solitaire on Mt. Palomar July 19 (RH) was s. of the species' known breeding range in California.

VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS—A Red-eyed Vireo, a casual straggler to s. California in spring, was near Escondido, San Diego Co., May 17 (KW). A Black-and-white Warbler near Blythe June 5 (RPM) was a late spring vagrant, but one at Garey, Santa Barbara Co., July 17-19 (RW) was believed to be summering locally. A Tennessee Warbler in Coronado, San Diego Co., June 21 (EC) was exceptionally late for a spring vagrant. The presence of a Nashville Warbler at Cortelyou Spring in the San Gabriel Mts., June 18 (KGa), suggested nesting at that locality. Three Hermit Warblers were seen in the San

Gabriel Mts. during June and July (KGa); this species undoubtedly breeds here in small numbers. A pair of MacGillivray's Warblers on territory at Toad Springs Campground on Mt. Able June 16 (GG) and a singing male along the upper reaches of Agua Blanca Creek, Ventura Co., June 25 (JGra) gave us the first evidence of nesting in this area; however, this species is well established as a summer resident in the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mts. to the s. and e. An Am. Redstart in Ojai, Ventura Co., June 16 (JGra) was a late spring straggler, but another at Garey July 17-23 (RW) appeared to be a non-breeding bird summering locally.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS—A ♂ Orchard Oriole near the Ozena Ranger Station in the Cuyama Valley of Ventura Co., June 12 (JGra) was probably a late spring vagrant. The Great-tailed Grackle found at L. Cachuma May 6 remained through the summer (LRB). A ♂ Summer Tanager at Montaña de Oro S.P., near Morro Bay, June 3 (JFK) was a spring vagrant. A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen near Lompoc, Santa Barbara Co., July 21 (REW), another was in Goleta July 6 (LB) and a third was in Julian, San Diego Co., July 20-22 (FJ); one or two of these birds are found in s. California almost every summer. The only Indigo Bunting reported was a male along the upper Santa Ynez R., July 22 (JGre). Singing Lazuli Buntings present in citrus groves around Blythe during June (RPM) indicate the species is nesting in that area of California. One or two Green-tailed Towhees were seen on Hot Springs Mt. during June (PU) and twelve were counted on Cuyamaca Peak June 17 (CGE), marking the s. limit of the species' breeding range in California. A pair of Brown Towhees accompanied by two juveniles at 6200 ft on Mt. Palomar June 29 (RH) was exceptionally high in the mountains. Most interesting was a singing Vesper Sparrow in Lockwood Valley, Ventura Co., June 12 (JGra), for the habitat there is suitable for nesting; however, except for their occurrence in one area in the San Bernardino Mts., this species is unknown as a breeding bird s. of Tulare and Inyo counties. Dark-eyed (Oregon) Juncos are now resident along the coast s. to the vicinity of Oxnard, breeding in areas supporting large stands of eucalyptus trees; in former years (Grinnell and Miller, *loc. cit.*) this species nested no farther s. along the coast than n. San Luis Obispo County. Sixteen Fox Sparrows were counted on Cuyamaca Peak June 17 (CGE), the s. limit of the species' range.

CORRIGENDUM—A line was omitted from the sentence about Clay-colored Sparrows in s. California during the winter of 1979-80, and it should be amended to read "...another in Long Beach Dec. 29+ (BD), one near Irvine Jan. 3-Feb. 29 (DW) and a fifth near Imperial Beach Nov. 25-Feb. 29+ (DPA)." (see *Am. Birds* 34:308, 1980).

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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION / C. John Ralph and Robert L. Pyle

Generally adequate rainfall through the spring continued into June and July, usually the driest months of the year. A heavy trade-wind shower at Honolulu June 15 brought 1.10 inches (2½ times the normal total for the month), but probably had little, if any, effect on birdlife.

SHEARWATERS THROUGH BOOBIES—On the historic Kalaupapa Peninsula, a Christmas Shearwater, extremely rare, and not known to be a breeding species on the main islands was sighted Aug. 9. It was vocalizing while flying over the lighthouse. All field marks were seen by 6 people (CK *et al.*). Several inland observations of the striking White-tailed Tropicbird on Oahu at various sites may signal a resurgence of the species. One pair was even observed in its spectacular courtship flight low over the trees around the Governor's mansion in downtown Honolulu in late July (CJR). The Cattle Egret continues to turn up along the Northwest Hawaiian chain. One was recorded during June on Nihoa I., 150 mi n.w. of Kauai I. (SC, MC). Although still not confirming breeding on Lanai, the report of 100 Dark-rumped Petrels the night of July 17, high in the mountains of Lanai I. (P&TC), is surely suggestive. Blue-faced Boobies are not very commonly seen around the main islands, so the sighting from Ulupau Head, O., of at least ten adults and three chicks just offshore on Moku Manu I, June 28, is noteworthy.

mangrove cays in busy Benner Bay, St. T., June 26. Bridled Quail-Doves are increasing in the n. Virgin Islands and can be expected in any forest type including mangrove edges. Belted Kingfisher is migratory in the West Indies but a few remain throughout the year in the n. Antilles. A report of one July 18 (RP-R) from Humacao, P.R., is the latest ever for that island. A single Stolid Flycatcher was noted in Cruz Bay, St. J., July 12. At Sandy Pt., St. C., a Barn Swallow was observed, probably a straggler from the Lesser Antilles. A Louisiana Waterthrush, seen July 26

along a freshwater stream at 200 ft elev. at Fish Bay, St. J. was very early for the Virgin Islands, where it may reach the current limit of its range.

ADDENDUM—Inadvertently omitted from the Spring Migration report was an observation of six Indigo Buntings Apr. 18 (DB, ER) and a late report of several ♂ and ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks Apr. 10 from Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, as well as Black-throated Blue (♂) and Am. Redstart (♀) parulids (DS).

ABBREVIATIONS—P.R. = Puerto Rico, St. J. = St. John, St. T. = St. Thomas, St. C. = St. Croix.

CONTRIBUTORS—All observations are the author's except where noted; Darcy Bailey, Jose Colon, Raul Perez-Rivera, Ed Roberts, David Sergeant—**ROBERT L. NORTON**, Bureau of Fish & Wildlife, No. 86 Estate Frydenhoj, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. 00801.

SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Fred S. Webster, Jr.

The abundant rains of May were soon forgotten as unusually dry and hot conditions persisted throughout the Region in June and July. A large high pressure dome over Texas caused a complete stagnation of weather-producing elements from mid-June to mid-July. Only minor changes occurred before and after this period as high pressure was never long absent. Rainfall was almost totally lacking in most areas until late in July when a weak cold front moved southward. Temperatures were consistently above normal and often record-breaking. One-hundred-degree F-plus readings were commonplace. Not only was this the hottest summer in recent years, but extreme heat settled in about a month earlier than usual.

Effects of the drought on habitat were readily apparent. Many ponds and marshes in all sections of the Region dried completely. Grasslands turned brown. Many trees and shrubs exhibited stress. Waders and shorebirds were attracted to exposed shorelines, and then were forced to move on when all water evaporated and vegetation dried out.

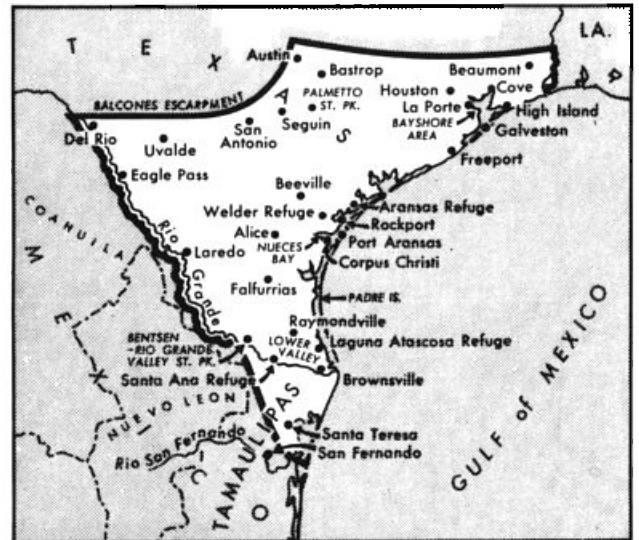
It may be assumed that earlier-nesting species were able to fledge young before summer drought set in. However, it should be recalled that during the spring months, when most resident species are completing their first nesting cycle, vegetation was still recovering from a late killing freeze which caused some delay in production of food and cover crops. Also, many areas were still moisture-deficient from previous seasons. Blacklock reported that preliminary information suggested a substantial decline from last year's level in the breeding populations of colonial waterbirds. Labuda, at Aransas N.W.R., reported a drastic reduction of breeding waterbirds because of the loss of surface water. In the Rio Grande Delta, Arvin observed that breeding seemed to be spread over a longer period of time, with activity at any one time less than in a normal season.

GREBES, PELICANS, CORMORANTS—Least and Pied-billed grebes occurred in far smaller than usual numbers on the coast as ponds dried. Most White Pelicans of the South Bird I. colony moved S to an adjacent island, perhaps because of a high in-

cidence of parasites (RW). On July 25, 112 young, including some fledglings, were counted. After Hurricane Allen, only 45 young were found. All nestlings were believed lost as the island was under water for a week. (EP, *vide* KM). This was the best year yet for the resurgent Brown Pelican population. Fifty-one young fledged on Pelican I., Corpus Christi area, from at least 21 nests, many of which had three young. Twenty-three young fledged on Carroll I., an historical nesting site adjacent to Aransas

N.W.R. (SL). Two birds, hatched in a nest on San Bernard N.W.R., Brazoria Co., represent a first successful hatching on the upper coast since 1962 (JGM). The two chicks could be seen on the nest by July 7. They subsequently left the nest "and moved to a small group of salt cedars within 10 feet of the nest." About 300 Olivaceous Cormorants summered at the s. end of Falcon L.

HERONS THROUGH FLAMINGOS—Some 20,000 individuals of various species shared Pelican I. On June 13, pairs of waders were counted as follows: 126 Great Blue Herons, 84 Great Egrets, 75 Snowy Egrets, 56 Reddish Egrets, 505 Louisiana Herons, 130 Cattle Egrets, 47 Black-crowned Night Herons, 93 White-faced Ibises, and 25 Roseate Spoonbills (DB, KM, EP). Incubation was in progress and many young were being fed. Cattle Egrets got off to a late nesting start in Laguna Madre and all nests were lost when hurricane waters Aug. 9-10 flooded the heronries (RW). A heronry at Eagle L., Colorado County, produces about 100,000 young herons and egrets each year, some 80% being Cattle Egrets. Shifflett estimated that 15-20% of this year's young were lost from exposure, "as I observed dead birds hanging from every nesting perch." At least 5 active nests of Yellow-crowned Night Herons were found along Olmos Creek in San Antonio (RC). The Am. Flamingo mentioned in the spring report remained around



S. Bird I. until early July (*vide* JW).

WATERFOWL—Black-bellied Whistling Ducks continued a surprising increase on the upper coast; one flock of about 100 was located in w. Harris County (TE). A "tremendous" increase in population has been noted in the Eagle L. area within the past 5 years. A brood on the adjacent Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R. provided a first nesting record for the refuge. A drought-related decline in Mottled Duck numbers was noted on the refuge (WAS). This normally common species was "virtually absent" from the Rio Grande Delta as only tidal waters remained (JA). A ♂ Masked Duck was seen at a roadside pond s.w. of Aransas Pass July 26 (J&BW).

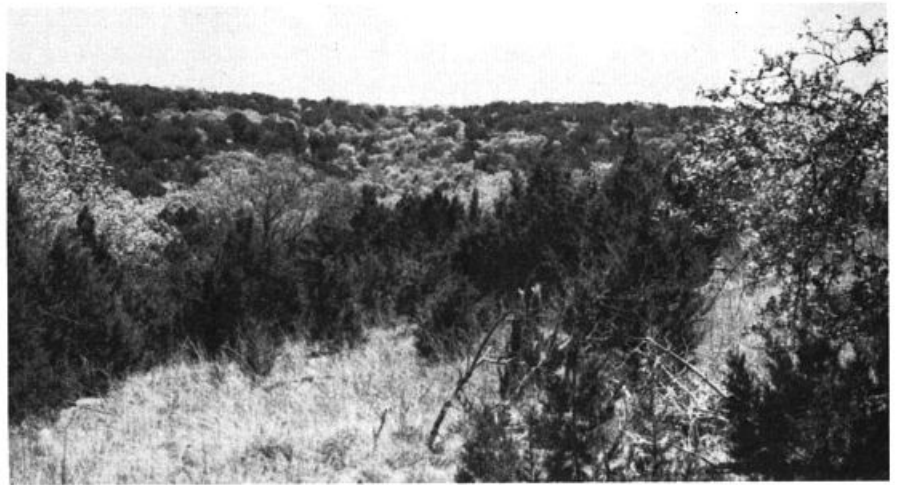
HAWKS—In early July, two ad. and three imm. White-tailed Kites were located about 15 mi e. of Austin in w. Bastrop County, obviously near a nesting site (JP, *vide* EK). Aside from coastal areas and the Rio Grande Valley, the only former nesting known in S. Texas occurred in adjacent Lee County in 1890. Shifflett stated that six or seven pairs of Mississippi Kites nest each year within 15 mi of Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R. An incubating ♀ Cooper's Hawk was found in a live oak tree near Sarita, Kenedy Co., Mar. 21 (KA, *vide* JA). After summer sightings of this species in previous years at Rancho Santa Margarita, Starr Co., Arvin found an ad.

female with a fledgling June 26. Red-tailed Hawks were found nesting near Braunig L., San Antonio in June (RC). Two pairs of White-tailed Hawks nested on the Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R., each fledging one bird. Three pairs of Caracaras probably nested on the refuge (WAS).

GROUSE, RAILS—A fair reproductive season for Greater Prairie Chickens occurred at Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R., with 3 broods observed. Heavy rains on the refuge during mid-May limited the success of Bobwhite nesting, but by the end of summer, numbers had increased “tremendously” (WAS). King Rail chicks were observed on the middle and upper coasts from early April to early May (CC *et al.*), and many juv. Clapper Rails were noted at Rockport July 11 (C & HK).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH SKIMMERS—Wilson’s Plover did well in the Rockport area; chicks were observed May 16–June 1 (CC, DNW). A post-breeding concentration in the Rio Grande estuary included many juveniles; 361 birds (of all ages) were there Aug. 2 (JA). Nesting success of Black-necked Stilts declined at Mitchell L., possibly because of rising water levels in late July (SH). Least Tern nests on the Rockport beach were estimated at 120–140 (BT, *fide* DNW); the high count of juveniles was 60 (C & HK). Late breeders had chicks killed and eggs smashed by motor vehicles (DNW). A large colony of Least Terns and Black Skimmers nested on the beach at Sunset L., near Corpus Christi. The skimmers were off to a late start, having fled a large colony at Shamrock I., following Memorial weekend festivities. Ill fortune followed the refugees to Sunset L., as they were forced to contend with fishermen, dogs, and egg-throwing children, and they were completely wiped out on the night of July 4 as motorists thronged to a fireworks display. Some frustrated skimmers had gone to Pelican I., to try again, only to be washed out by Hurricane Allen (KM).

PIGEONS THROUGH NIGHT-HAWKS—Arvin reported a slight increase in breeding numbers of Red-billed Pigeons in the Rio Grande Delta, with a few pairs returning to former nesting areas after an absence of several years. Three pairs bred at the Anzalduas Unit of Santa Ana N.W.R., and three pairs at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P. (JA). Yellow-billed Cuckoos appeared to be more numerous than usual in the San Antonio area (SH). A pair of Elf Owls again occupied a well-known nest hole at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., but deserted in late April after continued harassment by birders with powerful spotlights and tape recorders (JA). Very few pairs of Com. Nighthawks summered in the Mission area. Although common along the immediate coast, this species has been absent inland in the Delta in recent years (JA). Nesting Lesser Nighthawks with 2 eggs were found at Mitchell L., May 11; one young was airborne on June 15 (SH). Buff-bellied Hummingbirds persisted at several localities in Corpus Christi during the summer. Immatures were noted but no nests were found (KM). A pair of Green King-



Ashe-juniper woodland, habitat of the Golden-cheeked Warbler, Travis County, Tex. Photo/Greg W. Lasley.

fishers, apparently nesting, was found along the Medina R., s.w. of San Antonio, July 14 (S&DH). Two Downy Woodpeckers found in the Medina R. basin, July 8, were the first in summer for Bexar County (SH, JAM). This Region’s three *Myiarchus* flycatchers all summered on the Sekula farm in Wilson County, the Great Crested in riparian growth on Cibolo Creek, the Wied’s Crested around the house in tall mesquite and large live oaks, and the Ash-throated in more xeric, scrubby habitat to the w. (WS). Two pairs of Acadian Flycatchers were presumably on nesting territory at Bastrop S.P., May 25, and at least five pairs were found at Palmetto S.P., June 1 (SH). This species has not yet officially been recorded as nesting in Bastrop and Gonzales counties. A nest of the increasingly scarce Beardless Flycatcher was found at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., May 24, with at least two pairs present (JA).

SWALLOWS, CORVIDS—Colonies of Bank Swallows, presumably of a newly discovered Mexican race, were located on the Rio Grande near Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., and in a gravel pit near La Joya, Hidalgo Co. (JA). This is the first reported nesting in Hidalgo, although the species has been recorded, rarely, in adjacent Cameron and Starr counties. Fifty Barn Swallow nesting sites, all in road culverts, were censused in late summer in s. Travis County. On July 27, at least 20 nests were still being incubated (GL). At Rockport, Cliff Swallows returned to their old nesting culvert this year, deserting the more recent one; 405 nests were located (C&HK). At least two Cave Swallow nests were found in a highway culvert 18 mi s. of Carrizo Springs, Apr. 30, a new record for Dimmit County and a S extension of the breeding range (DEW *et al.*). A culvert colony of 40 birds found in n.w. LaSalle County also represented a new county record (GB, PS). Two young cowbirds (sp.?) were being fed by a Green Jay at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., July 6 (V & AW); orioles and Cardinals are more commonly victims of the Bronzed Cowbird. Brown Jays have been seen consistently this year near San Ygnacio, Zapata Co.; presuming nesting, this would be about a 50-mi range extension NW.

THRASHERS, THRUSHES—Long-billed Thrashers occurred in considerably below historical numbers at Welder Wildlife Ref., as habitat suffered various setbacks over the past few seasons (GB). A pair of Am. Robins nested in Corpus Christi; the three fledglings died, possibly because of the heat (KM). A singing Clay-colored Robin was at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., May 20 (JA). One or more Wood Thrushes were heard in juniper-deciduous woodland on the w. edge of Austin June 12 (VE) – Aug. 2 (PE), although no evidence of nesting was found.

VIREOS, WARBLERS—Two pairs of Bell’s Vireos were present at Rockport (C&HK). Two ♂ Prothonotary Warblers were found at Palmetto S.P., June 1 (SH, TH). A Swainson’s Warbler was on territory at Bastrop S.P., May 25 (SH). Six singing Golden-cheeked Warblers were found on the Travis Audubon Society sanctuary w. of Austin on the early date of Mar. 8; only a week before, a record-breaking cold spell had lowered temperatures to 17°F, with much damage to vegetation. Despite any detrimental effects to the environment, this species appeared to be present in normal numbers. Adults were seen carrying food Apr. 18, and a pair was feeding three newly-fledged young June 1 (GL). Four ♂ and two ♀ Am. Redstarts were found at Hale Ranch S.P., Fort Bend Co., June 1 (KB, TE, TG, JGM). These birds appeared to be territorial, and it seems probable that a nesting population exists locally in the Brazos R. bottomlands (JGM).

ORIOLES, FRINGILLIDS—A Black-headed Oriole was seen at Welder Ref., June 13 (GB). A serious decline in Lichtenstein’s Oriole numbers is reflected in the presence of no more than two pairs at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., and no more than 4 nests located at Santa Ana N.W.R. (JA). The Great-tailed Grackle is spreading into residential areas of Rockport as a breeding bird (DNW). Dickcissels passed up some usual nesting areas because of unsatisfactory habitat conditions, but were common at Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R. (WAS). As far as is known, no White-collared Seedeaters remained at San Ygnacio to nest. Olive Sparrow numbers have decreased considerably at

Welder Ref. (GB). Juvenile Seaside Sparrows were seen at Rockport, July 11 (C&HK). More than the usual number of Lark Sparrows remained to breed on Welder Ref. (GB), and an increase in Cassin's Sparrows was noted at Rockport (C & HK).

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DISTRIBUTION

Confirmation of two new species from Puerto Rico

Raúl A. Pérez-Rivera

IN THE SUMMER OF 1977, while undertaking field studies at Lake Bairoa La 25 (Caguas), I was informed by local residents of a large black hawk that had been observed at this locality. On July 23 I also saw the bird which I identified as a Black (Crab) Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*). This record was considered hypothetical by Vélez in his checklist of vertebrates of Puerto Rico (Science-Ciencia, 1977, 5.1:30). At the suggestion of Pedro J. Claudio, I visited a friend of his (José Rivera), who had a mounted specimen of a strange hawk. This I examined and identified as a Black (Crab) Hawk. The bird had been shot by a farmer in the spring of 1978 a few miles from Lake Bairoa La 25. Mr. Rivera kindly presented the specimen to me and it is now in the collection of the Museum of Biology of the University of Puerto Rico, labeled R.P.R. 27. This bird may represent a vagrant from Cuba, Trinidad-Tobago or South America or may have been introduced illegally on the island and escaped from captivity.

The Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya col-*

laris) is included among the migrant bird species of Puerto Rico because Gundlach (*Journal für Ornithologie*, 1878: 191) reported it as observed in the Tomas Blanco collection. Biaggi (Las Aves de Puerto Rico, 1970 p. 114) commented that in 1968 some hunters reported the species to him. Nevertheless not a single skin was secured for the Museum of Biology of the University of Puerto Rico.

On December 21, 1977 I observed a group of about five Ring-necked Ducks at Lago Ponceña (Ponce). Since then some hunters have reported to me having observed or shot this species in places such as the Boqueron Refuge (Cabo Rojo) and the swamps of Anton Ruiz River (Humacao). January 30, 1980 Jaime Gonzalez Azar shot a male at Humacao Swamps. Gonzalez Azar has kindly donated the bird to me and the skin is now at the Museum of Biology of the University of Puerto Rico (R.P.R. 30). This is the first museum specimen in Puerto Rico. Measurements were as follows: length of bill from nares-31.5

mm and length of wing (chord) 190.9 mm.

ARE MIGRANT WATERFOWL FOR Puerto Rico such as the Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) and the Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) have been either observed or shot by local naturalists and hunters respectively in the past five years. I am of the opinion that the overly severe winters in North America of the second half of the last decade are important factors that may have caused the extreme southern movement into the Antilles of the above species of ducks.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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